

SEPTEMBER 1956

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CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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**MATERIALS REQUIRED
FOR THE 1957-69
HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

- *Expenditures*
- *Starts*
- *Materials*
- *Awards*
- *Permits*
- *Costs*
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PRESIDENT'S CABINET COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS RELEASES ITS REPORT

An analysis of problems faced by small business concerns, with recommendations for Executive and Legislative action to relieve or eliminate the problems, has recently been released by the President's Cabinet Committee on Small Business.

The Committee was appointed by President Eisenhower to assess problems of small businessmen, review the small business policies, programs, and performance of government agencies, and make appropriate recommendations. Based on this analysis the Committee has made recommendations in the fields of taxation, contracting and procurement, financing, need for and availability of technical aids, competition, and paperwork requirements. The Committee was assisted in the analysis and recommendations by the Council of Economic Advisers and a staff of experts particularly cognizant of small business problems.

Copies of the Progress Report by the Cabinet Committee on Small Business can be purchased for 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., or from any of the U. S. Department of Commerce Field Offices (see inside cover of Construction Review for addresses).

At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN AUGUST--New construction outlays rose seasonally in August to an alltime high of nearly \$4.3 billion, bringing the total for the first 8 months of 1956 to a record \$28.4 billion. Most major categories showed a normal seasonal movement between July and August. Private construction expenditures thus far in 1956 (\$19.9 billion) equaled the January-August record of 1955, as this year's lower volume of new residential building was offset by gains in private industrial and commercial building, and utility work. The public total was up 6 percent from the first 8 months of 1955, owing chiefly to increased spending for highways, public service enterprises, and sewerage and water works, which more than compensated for a 51-percent drop in public industrial construction (mostly installations for the Atomic Energy Commission).

HOUSING STARTS IN JULY--Nonfarm housing starts declined seasonally in July to 101,000--down 3,000 from June and 22,000 from July 1955. The seasonally adjusted annual rate of private starts held steady in July at the June rate of 1,070,000, compared with the 1,120,000 average for the first 7 months of 1956. The total of 676,000 units (private and public) started thus far in 1956 was 17 percent below the 818,000 begun during January-July 1955, but was within 2 percent of the January through July totals for the 4 years 1951-54.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN JULY--Housing begun under FHA programs continued to decline in July (by 5 percent), and VA volume showed a similar rate of decrease after holding steady in May and June. Comparing data for the first 7 months of 1955-56, FHA-VA starts showed a 30-percent drop this year, and the FHA-VA ratio to total private starts fell from 50 to 43 percent. Also, FHA applications for home mortgage insurance were off 30 percent from January-July 1955, and VA appraisal requests, 37 percent. Further declines in FHA-VA starts are likely, since the volume of FHA and VA applications has decreased almost steadily since early spring.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN JUNE--The value of nonfarm mortgage recordings declined fractionally from May to June, contrary to the usual early summer rise. Mortgages written in June (\$2.4 billion) totaled 8 percent less than in June 1955--a loss that was shared by all types of institutional lenders, including commercial banks, which previously had been exceeding last year's record levels. Mortgages written in the first half of 1956 totaled \$13.5 billion--3 percent below the 1955 high for the period. Commercial banks and individual lenders were the only major groups to show increases from the first half of 1955, while savings and loan associations and insurance companies had the sharpest drop--more than 8 percent.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN JULY--Building permit valuations declined 7 percent from June to \$1.7 billion in July, with decreases shown for all major types of new building except industrial plant. The July total was 3 percent above a year earlier, however, reflecting the 1956 expansion in nonresidential building. Comparing data for the first 7 months of 1955-56, the permit valuation total was the same in both years (at \$11.5 billion), as the 12-percent drop in dwelling-unit valuations thus far in 1956 was offset by increases in the nonresidential group that ranged from 15 percent for community building to 66 percent for industrial plant.

PUBLIC CONTRACT AWARDS IN JUNE--Contracts were awarded for \$1.1 billion of public construction in June--27 percent more than in May. Federal contracts, which customarily reach a seasonal peak in June, accounted for more than 70 percent of the increase over May. Major gains were in Federal awards for troop housing, electric power utilities (additional TVA steam units), and industrial buildings. More than four-fifths of the May to June rise in contract awards of State and local governments resulted from seasonal expansion of federally aided State highway construction programs. The value of all public contracts awarded during the first half of the year was 15 percent higher in 1956 than in 1955. State and local projects comprised about four-fifths of the total in both years.

CONTRACT AWARDS IN 37 EASTERN STATES IN JULY--The value of construction contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains edged down to \$2.1

At a Glance

billion in July, owing to a continuation of the decline in residential awards and a moderate curtailment of public works from its alltime peak in June. Awards for nonresidential building rose 7 percent in July, reversing a 3-month downturn, and utilities contracts recovered the small decline that occurred in June. Comparing data for the first 7 months of 1955-56, the total value of all awards was up 8 percent this year (at \$15.3 billion), reflecting gains of 24 percent for public works, 17 percent for utilities, and 9 percent for nonresidential building contracts. The value of residential awards was about the same both years, for the first 7 months, although the 1956 volume of dwelling units included in these contracts was 7 percent less than a year earlier.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN JULY--The Composite Cost Index of the Department of Commerce continued the almost steady increase which began in the spring of 1955, and reached a new high this July at 131.3 percent of the 1947-49 average. The index was up 5 percent from a year earlier, with about three-fourths of this advance taking place in the 6 months February-July 1956. The July index did not fully reflect the rise in steel prices that followed signing of new wage contracts in that industry during the month.

BUILDING MATERIALS PRICES IN JULY--The July index of the wholesale prices of building materials held at the June level of 130.6, as increases for a number of products (including glass, cement, concrete products, asphalt roofing, structural clay products, and insulation materials) were offset by several important price declines. Prices of copper products used in building--such as water tubing, building wire, and electric cable--showed substantial declines in July, reflecting the steady downtrend in the copper market since last spring. In addition, prices for types of lumber used extensively in homebuilding (Douglas fir and some other softwoods, and hardwoods, such as oak flooring) slipped further in July in response to declining housing activity.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN JUNE--Output indexes for most major construction materials declined somewhat in June. The only increase of note from May was in the asphalt products index, which rose almost 5 percent--but it was 19 percent below the June 1955 level, when output for this item was at an alltime monthly high. Among the major materials groups, the only items showing increases over June 1955 were Portland cement, iron and steel products, and clay construction products. For each of these, the June 1956 indexes were the highest for any June.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN JULY--Preliminary reports indicate that employment in contract construction advanced less than seasonally in July, but reached an alltime high of 3,296,000--about 264,000 above the July 1955 figure. State and area data available through June show that for a majority of both the States and areas employment increased from the previous month and from June 1955. In 12 States and 32 widely scattered areas, over-the-year increases amounted to 10 percent or more.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN JUNE--Weekly earnings in contract construction reached a new high of \$103.25 in June--\$2.64 above the previous maximum of last September, and \$6.62 higher than the June 1955 average. The over-the-year gain in weekly earnings resulted from a longer workweek and increased hourly earnings in both building and nonbuilding construction and among all of the special trades. Hourly earnings for the industry as a whole, which averaged \$2.71 in June 1956, also set a new record, and were 14 cents above the June 1955 average. The average workweek this June, at 38.1 hours, was a half hour longer than a year earlier.

APPRENTICES IN BUILDING TRADES, FIRST HALF 1956--The number of registered apprentices employed in the building trades continued to expand in 1956 and at midyear totaled almost 104,000--an 11-percent rise over the June 1955 figure. The 1955-56 gain was nationwide--except for 7 States west of the Mississippi River and the District of Columbia--and was shared by all major building trades groups. More than 40 percent of the overall increase, however, was in the trowel trades, owing partly to expanded coverage and improved reporting for this group.

Material Requirements for the Expanded Highway Program, 1957-69

EDWIN L. STERN*

The passage of the Federal-Aid Highway and Highway Revenue Acts of 1956 provides Federal funds for a recordbreaking highway program during the next 13 years. This has raised questions concerning the ability of the economy to meet the demand for materials required to utilize the more than \$100 billion¹ which are likely to be expended between 1957 and 1969.

In order to permit an assessment of this matter, the Bureau of Public Roads has prepared estimates of the quantities of materials needed to carry out the construction activity planned during this long period. These estimates do not reflect the indirect requirements for material which will result from this new highway program. Undoubtedly, the expansion of manufacturing industries providing the highway materials and equipment as well as other byproducts of this tremendous roadbuilding program will create additional needs for materials.

Scope of the Program

The estimates presented in the accompanying table pertain to 1955 and 1956 in addition to the 1957-69 period covered by the new legislation. For the latter period, the requirements estimates are based on levels of expenditures which result from the \$31.2 billion (Federal funds plus State matching funds) that would be spent under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, the \$1.7 billion remaining from previous legislation, plus the additional Federal-aid work which is expected to be authorized by future legislation for the regular Federal-aid programs,² and outlays by State and local governments both as matching funds in Federal-aid work and as allocations for work not involving Federal aid.

It was assumed by the Bureau of Public Roads that the total outlays of State, county, and municipal governments during the years ahead for both Federal-aid and non-Federal-aid purposes would remain at about the 1956 level. It was also assumed that the regular Federal-aid appropriations in the future would be gradually increased from the \$825 million level of 1957 to a maximum of about \$950 million. The total expenditure of about \$102 billion is for new construction and reconstruction of roads. It does not include maintenance and repair expenditures nor expenditures for airports, private roads, and driveways.

Basis of the Estimates

In computing the material requirements, it was assumed that expenditures would rise from the 1956 level of more than \$5 billion and reach a peak of about \$8 billion in 1960. Expenditures during the next 7 years should remain near that level then drop to about \$7.5 and \$7 billion, respectively, for the last 2 years of the program.

All estimates are based on the assumption that prices will remain constant at current levels. The actual resources required for the program will vary inversely with highway construction bid prices. The quantities estimated are derived from material usage factors which are based on data reported by contractors on highway construction projects involving Federal-aid funds. It is believed that the material usage factors for non-Federal-aid highway construction would not differ significantly, if known, from those developed for Federal-aid jobs.

It was found that the factors which were adjusted to the price level of current expenditures and expressed in units of the various items of material per million dollars of contract construction expenditures, varied somewhat from year to year. This was because there was a change in the "product mix" from year to year. For example, if in any given year more large bridges are built, the structural steel

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¹ Throughout this article dollar amounts of expenditures include sums to be spent for engineering and acquisition of rights-of-way.

² Programs for primary, secondary, and urban systems, as distinguished from the National system of interstate and defense highways.

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usage factor for that year will be high. If, on the other hand, surfacing predominates a year's activity, cement, asphalt, and aggregate factors will become relatively more significant.

The figures presented herein generally reflect the usage factors which result from the highway construction "mix" of 1955, inasmuch as that year's factors approximated the average for the past several years. No extrapolation of trend was made in analyzing the use factors of recent years.

The usage factors also depend upon the construction specifications under which the roads are built. More cement, for example, generally is used on primary and urban work than on secondary work, for which the average asphalt usage is greater.

The material requirements shown for 1955 are based on 1954 usage factors for all systems. For 1956 and later years, the 1955 factors for the individual systems were weighted, in accordance with the estimated amount of work to be performed on each system, to obtain a composite factor. The weighting or system distribution used is as follows:

Interstate primary rural	15 percent
Interstate primary urban.....	12 percent
Non-interstate primary rural.....	26 percent
Non-interstate primary urban	24 percent
Secondary.....	23 percent

Material Requirements and Supplies

At the peak of the program in 1960, dollar expenditures may exceed the 1955 level by almost 75 percent. The substantial increases in major types of highway materials needed for this expanded construction program are indicated in the accompanying table.

ESTIMATED MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EXPANDED HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Type of material	Unit of quantity	Quantity of specified material required during (calendar year)—							
		1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961-69	1957-69
Steel, all types, total	M tons	2,085	2,720	3,332	3,625	3,779	3,885	34,116	48,737
Structural steel, total	" "	983	1,442	1,760	1,914	1,996	2,052	18,015	25,737
Wide flange shapes	" "	444	663	809	880	918	944	8,288	11,839
Standard shapes.....	" "	211	303	370	402	419	431	3,783	5,405
Bearing piles.....	" "	96	144	176	191	200	205	1,800	2,572
Sheet piles.....	" "	39	43	53	58	60	62	543	776
Wide plates	" "	58	87	106	115	120	123	1,080	1,544
Standard plates	" "	135	202	246	268	279	287	2,521	3,601
Reinforcing steel, total.....	" "	807	931	1,136	1,236	1,288	1,325	11,632	16,617
Bar	" "	689	745	909	989	1,030	1,060	9,306	13,294
Wire	" "	118	186	227	247	258	265	2,326	3,323
Corrugated metal pipe	" "	148	165	201	219	228	234	2,056	2,938
Other misc. steel ²	" "	147	182	235	256	267	274	2,413	3,445
Cement ³	MM bbls.	61.6	74.0	94.5	102.9	107.4	110.5	983.7	1,399.0
Bituminous material.....	MM tons	5.9	7.2	8.7	9.5	9.9	10.2	89.4	127.7
Aggregates, total ⁴	" "	403	544	664	722	753	774	6,797	9,710
Purchased ⁵	" "	201	228	278	303	316	325	2,853	4,075
Produced ⁵	" "	202	316	386	419	437	449	3,944	5,635
Lumber	MM bd. ft.	385	403	492	535	558	573	5,036	7,194
Timber piling	" " "	82	119	146	158	165	169	1,490	2,128
Concrete culvert pipe	MM tons	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	33.6	48.0
Clay pipe and tile	M tons	47	55	67	73	76	78	689	983
Petroleum products ⁶	MM gals.	652	744	908	987	1,029	1,059	9,297	13,280
Explosives	MM lbs.	90	102	124	135	141	144	1,268	1,812

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads.

¹ Excludes reinforcement in concrete culvert pipe. ² Includes steel guard rail, fences, cast iron pipe, pavement joint devices, tubular piling, nails, etc. ³ Excludes cement in concrete culvert pipe. ⁴ Excludes aggregates in concrete culvert pipe. ⁵ By contractors. ⁶ Includes gasoline, diesel oil, lubricating oil, grease, etc.

Steel and cement have been in especially tight supply in recent years, resulting in some delays in construction. Cement requirements for highways are expected to rise from about 60 million barrels in 1955 to a peak demand of nearly 115 million barrels by 1964. By 1958, the demand will be about 105 million barrels. The need for almost 50 million barrels more per year should be met by increases in productive capacity which are now planned and underway and which will increase the industry's capacity from 311 million barrels at the end of 1955 to 381 million by the end of 1957 and 392 million by the close of the following year.³

Wide flange structural shapes will account for most of the major supply problems in steel. The limited production capacity of this item has been utilized to the fullest extent without satisfying the demand since the end of World War II. The increase required under the new program, about 500,000 tons a year, will place additional burdens on the industry's facilities. Recognizing this situation, some steel companies have formulated plans for increasing present capacity for rolling these shapes. If such increases fail to meet the full demand, deficiencies will have to be met by greater use of reinforced concrete, pre-stressed concrete, and fabricated plate girders.

³ See Portland Cement Productive Capacity, 1955-58. (In Construction Review, February 1956, pp. 17-18.)

STATISTICAL SERIES

NOTE: ALL THE STATISTICAL SERIES IN CONSTRUCTION REVIEW
ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION FOR THE LATEST PERIOD SHOWN.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)					Percent change		
	1956		1955	First 8 months		Aug. 1956 from--		First 8 months, 1955-56
	Aug.	July	Aug.	1956	1955	July 1956	Aug. 1955	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	4,261	4,194	4,205	28,387	27,846	+ 2	+ 1	+ 2
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,842	2,829	2,893	19,878	19,785	(1)	- 2	(1)
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,402	1,410	1,587	9,850	10,827	- 1	-12	- 9
New dwelling units.....	1,220	1,225	1,435	8,675	9,780	(1)	-15	-11
Additions and alterations	140	142	119	890	836	- 1	+18	+ 6
Nonhousekeeping	42	43	33	285	211	- 2	+27	+35
Nonresidential building	786	786	686	5,652	4,783	0	+15	+18
Industrial	273	268	205	1,963	1,520	+ 2	+33	+29
Commercial	294	301	286	2,165	1,867	- 2	+ 3	+16
Office buildings and								
warehouses	123	115	99	847	707	+ 7	+24	+20
Stores, restaurants, and garages	171	186	187	1,318	1,160	- 8	- 9	+14
Other nonresidential building	219	217	195	1,524	1,396	+ 1	+12	+ 9
Religious	70	66	68	473	469	+ 6	+ 3	+ 1
Educational	49	48	43	345	313	+ 2	+14	+10
Hospital and institutional	28	26	31	203	234	+ 8	-10	-13
Social and recreational	27	26	23	169	155	+ 4	+17	+ 9
Miscellaneous	45	51	30	334	225	-12	+50	+48
Farm construction	161	159	172	1,037	1,100	+ 1	- 6	- 6
Public utility	481	462	434	3,264	2,958	+ 4	+11	+10
Railroad	39	39	35	279	234	0	+11	+19
Telephone and telegraph	90	85	76	635	508	+ 6	+18	+25
Other public utility	352	338	323	2,350	2,216	+ 4	+ 9	+ 6
All other private	12	12	14	75	117	0	-14	-36
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,419	1,365	1,312	8,509	8,061	+ 4	+ 8	+ 6
Residential building	23	23	23	165	177	0	0	- 7
Nonresidential building	386	381	380	2,659	2,896	+ 1	+ 2	- 8
Industrial	39	39	51	280	568	0	-24	-51
Educational	234	230	223	1,678	1,623	+ 2	+ 5	+ 3
Hospital and institutional	32	30	32	202	226	+ 7	0	-11
Other nonresidential building	81	82	74	499	479	- 1	+ 9	+ 4
Military facilities	134	134	131	852	812	0	+ 2	+ 5
Highway	615	575	569	3,180	2,795	+ 7	+ 8	+14
Sewer and water	127	123	105	827	719	+ 3	+21	+15
Sewer	70	68	59	456	408	+ 3	+19	+12
Water	57	55	46	371	311	+ 4	+24	+15
Public service enterprises	51	48	35	301	166	+ 6	+46	+81
Conservation and development	65	64	54	412	395	+ 2	+20	+ 4
All other public	18	17	15	113	101	+ 6	+20	+12

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

NOTE: These monthly estimates do not reflect the effects of shortages
of steel and other materials on the volume of work put in place.

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Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1955					1956							
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION..	4,205	4,148	4,037	3,702	3,258	2,938	2,811	3,072	3,389	3,714	4,008	4,194	4,261
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,893	2,879	2,810	2,663	2,435	2,176	2,087	2,261	2,403	2,550	2,730	2,829	2,842
Residential building													
(nonfarm).....	1,587	1,561	1,509	1,419	1,279	1,080	998	1,116	1,212	1,270	1,362	1,410	1,402
New dwelling units	1,435	1,410	1,360	1,280	1,160	980	895	1,000	1,070	1,105	1,180	1,225	1,220
Additions and alterations.....	119	119	116	107	88	70	73	86	109	128	142	142	140
Nonhousekeeping.....	33	32	33	32	31	30	30	30	33	37	40	43	42
Nonresidential building	686	714	721	715	679	650	647	656	664	704	759	786	786
Industrial	205	213	219	224	223	223	224	226	237	251	261	268	273
Commercial.....	286	303	306	297	270	251	252	258	253	266	290	301	294
Office buildings and													
warehouses.....	99	102	106	112	109	105	101	97	98	102	106	115	123
Stores, restaurants,													
and garages	187	201	200	185	161	146	151	161	155	164	184	186	171
Other nonresidential bldg. ..	195	198	196	194	186	176	171	172	174	187	208	217	219
Religious	68	69	68	66	62	58	55	53	53	56	62	66	70
Educational	43	45	45	45	44	41	40	39	40	42	46	48	49
Hospital & institutional ..	31	31	30	29	27	26	25	25	24	24	25	26	28
Social and recreational....	23	22	21	21	20	18	17	18	19	21	23	26	27
Miscellaneous	30	31	32	33	33	33	34	37	38	44	52	51	45
Farm construction	172	159	132	111	98	97	101	109	121	139	150	159	161
Public utility	434	433	437	407	369	341	334	373	398	427	448	462	481
Railroad	35	36	39	35	30	30	29	33	35	36	38	39	39
Telephone and telegraph	76	76	75	74	72	70	70	75	80	80	85	85	90
Other public utility	323	321	323	298	267	241	235	265	283	311	325	338	352
All other private	14	12	11	11	10	8	7	7	8	10	11	12	12
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION.....	1,312	1,269	1,227	1,039	823	762	724	811	986	1,164	1,278	1,365	1,419
Residential building	23	22	22	21	21	20	20	18	19	19	23	23	23
Nonresidential building	380	374	350	321	286	292	285	303	318	337	357	381	386
Industrial	51	45	40	38	30	35	34	33	31	32	37	39	39
Educational	223	221	212	200	186	190	187	195	206	216	220	230	234
Hospital and institutional ..	32	32	28	25	20	20	19	23	24	27	27	30	32
Other nonresidential bldg. ..	74	76	70	58	50	47	45	52	57	62	73	82	81
Military facilities	131	136	136	116	97	84	78	84	98	113	127	134	134
Highway	569	533	524	405	263	210	195	230	350	470	535	575	615
Sewer and water	105	100	97	89	80	82	77	92	102	109	115	123	127
Sewer	59	56	54	51	46	46	42	50	57	60	63	68	70
Water	46	44	43	38	34	36	35	42	45	49	52	55	57
Public service enterprises....	35	35	31	25	22	25	23	30	38	42	44	48	51
Conservation and													
development.....	54	53	52	49	44	39	36	42	47	58	61	64	65
All other public	15	16	15	13	10	10	10	12	14	16	16	17	18

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST	NORTH CENTRAL		SOUTH		WEST
1. New England	3. E. N. Central	4. W. N. Central	5. S. Atlantic	6. E. S. Central	8. Mountain
Connecticut	Illinois	Iowa	Delaware	Alabama	Arizona
Maine	Indiana	Kansas	Dist. of Col.	Kentucky	Colorado
Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	Florida	Mississippi	Idaho
New Hampshire	Ohio	Missouri	Georgia	Tennessee	Montana
Rhode Island	Wisconsin	Nebraska	Maryland		Nevada
Vermont		North Dakota	N. Carolina	7. W. S. Central	New Mexico
		South Dakota	S. Carolina	Arkansas	Utah
			Virginia	Louisiana	Wyoming
			W. Virginia	Oklahoma	
				Texas	
2. Middle Atlantic					9. Pacific
New Jersey					California
New York					Oregon
Pennsylvania					Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent. NORTH CENTRAL—29.0 percent. SOUTH—27.7 percent. WEST—13.8 percent.

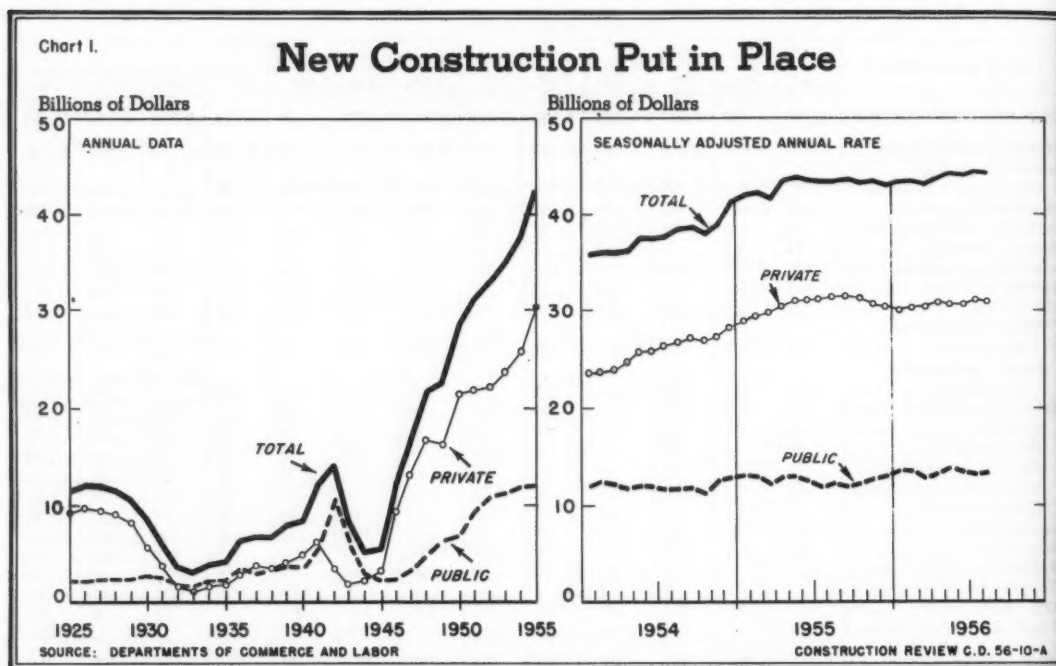


Table 3.—New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate							Annual total	
	1955	1956						1954	1955
	Aug.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.		
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	43,656	43,020	43,896	44,232	44,136	44,292	44,268	37,782	42,991
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	31,440	30,372	30,756	30,708	30,660	31,044	30,960	25,853	30,572
Residential building (nonfarm)	17,196	15,216	15,312	15,084	15,000	15,240	15,156	13,496	16,595
Nonresidential building	7,896	8,496	8,796	8,928	8,976	9,096	9,072	6,250	7,612
Industrial	2,484	2,736	2,904	3,132	3,264	3,312	3,312	2,030	2,399
Commercial	3,264	3,492	3,516	3,360	3,288	3,300	3,348	2,192	3,043
Office buildings and warehouses	1,152	1,248	1,296	1,332	1,356	1,392	1,428	958	1,136
Stores, restaurants, and garages	2,112	2,244	2,220	2,028	1,932	1,908	1,920	1,254	1,907
Other nonresidential building	2,148	2,268	2,376	2,436	2,424	2,484	2,412	2,008	2,170
Farm construction	1,584	1,536	1,524	1,512	1,500	1,500	1,488	1,645	1,600
Public utility	4,620	5,028	5,028	5,076	5,076	5,088	5,112	4,341	4,604
All other private	144	96	96	108	108	120	132	121	161
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	12,216	12,648	13,140	13,524	13,476	13,248	13,308	11,929	12,419
Residential building	240	228	240	228	264	264	252	336	263
Nonresidential building	4,020	3,864	3,816	3,924	4,080	4,080	4,104	4,641	4,227
Military facilities	1,344	1,152	1,248	1,416	1,476	1,476	1,368	1,030	1,297
Highway	4,512	4,932	5,256	5,316	5,100	4,896	4,956	3,870	4,520
Sewer and water	1,068	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,236	1,296	982	1,085
Public service enterprises	324	432	504	468	420	432	468	218	279
Conservation and development	552	612	636	720	696	684	672	704	593
All other public	156	156	168	180	168	180	192	148	155

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

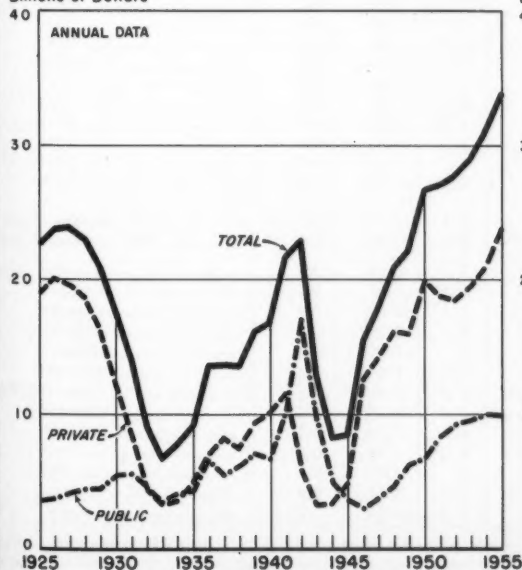
Type of construction	(Millions of dollars)									
	1956			1955		Year				
	July	June	May	July	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,208	3,077	2,856	3,269	26,608	26,988	27,662	28,931	31,094	34,476
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,125	2,055	1,926	2,251	19,885	18,677	18,428	19,433	21,000	24,155
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,082	1,047	978	1,276	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214	13,378
Nonresidential building	588	571	532	523	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073	5,995
Industrial	205	201	194	160	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690	1,946
Office buildings and warehouses	86	80	77	75	396	500	461	640	789	898
Stores, restaurants, and garages	137	136	122	140	828	733	525	857	998	1,473
Other nonresidential bldgs.	160	154	139	148	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596	1,678
Farm construction	128	121	112	142	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,407	1,350
Public utility	319	309	297	299	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,216	3,319
All other private	8	7	7	11	101	54	69	92	90	113
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,083	1,022	930	1,018	6,723	8,311	9,234	9,498	10,094	10,321
Residential building	18	18	15	16	321	512	550	459	281	213
Nonresidential building	281	266	252	298	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	3,743	3,299
Industrial	30	29	25	49	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253	588
Educational	169	163	161	169	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696	1,888
Hospital and institutional	22	20	20	25	467	466	401	297	289	257
Other nonresidential building	60	54	46	55	497	426	305	403	505	566
Military facilities	105	100	89	101	171	788	1,195	1,105	872	1,067
Highway	511	479	422	460	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,689	4,249
Sewer and water	82	78	74	73	590	655	639	681	724	770
Public service enterprises	32	29	28	21	164	168	148	146	156	192
Conservation and development	43	41	39	39	786	721	694	639	520	421
All other public	11	11	11	10	87	68	54	86	109	110

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

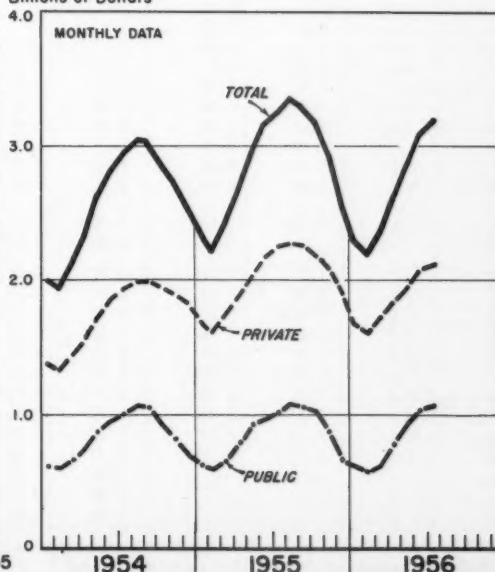
Chart 2

New Construction Put in Place (In 1947-49 Prices)

Billions of Dollars



Billions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C. D. 56-10-8

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)								Percent change		
	1955	1956						First 8 months		Aug. 1956 from--	
	Aug.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	1955	1956	Aug. 1955	July 1956	First 8 months, 1955-56
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,312	986	1,164	1,278	1,365	1,419	8,061	8,509	+ 8	+ 4	+ 6
Federal funds	352	249	299	346	370	377	2,350	2,249	+ 7	+ 2	- 4
Direc Federal	257	189	221	251	272	267	1,874	1,693	+ 4	- 2	-10
Federal grants-in-aid ¹	95	60	78	95	98	110	476	556	+16	+12	+17
State and local funds	960	737	865	932	995	1,042	5,711	6,260	+ 9	+ 5	+10
FEDERALLY OWNED	257	189	221	251	272	267	1,874	1,693	+ 4	- 2	-10
Residential building	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	+200
Nonresidential building	59	37	41	52	62	55	612	365	- 7	-11	-40
Industrial	51	31	32	37	39	39	568	280	-24	0	-51
Educational	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	-33
Hospital	2	2	3	3	4	4	14	23	+100	0	+64
Other nonresidential	6	3	5	12	19	12	27	60	+100	-37	+122
Military facilities	131	98	113	127	134	134	812	852	+ 2	0	+ 5
Highway	11	6	8	9	10	11	47	55	0	+10	+17
Conservation and development	54	47	58	61	64	65	395	412	+20	+ 2	+ 4
All other federally owned	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	6	0	0	-14
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	1,055	797	943	1,027	1,093	1,152	6,187	6,816	+ 9	+ 5	+10
Residential building	22	19	19	22	22	22	176	162	0	0	- 8
Nonresidential building	321	281	296	305	319	331	2,284	2,294	+ 3	+ 4	(2)
Educational	223	205	215	220	230	234	1,620	1,676	+ 5	+ 2	+ 3
Hospital	30	22	24	24	26	28	212	179	- 7	+ 8	-16
Other nonresidential	68	54	57	61	63	69	452	439	+ 1	+10	- 3
Highway	558	344	462	526	565	604	2,748	3,125	+ 8	+ 7	+14
Sewer and water	105	102	109	115	123	127	719	827	+21	+ 3	+15
Sewer	59	57	60	63	68	70	408	456	+19	+ 3	+12
Water	46	45	49	52	55	57	311	371	+24	+ 4	+19
All other State and locally owned	49	51	57	59	64	68	260	408	+39	+ 6	+57

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

¹ Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Part II--New Housing

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Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

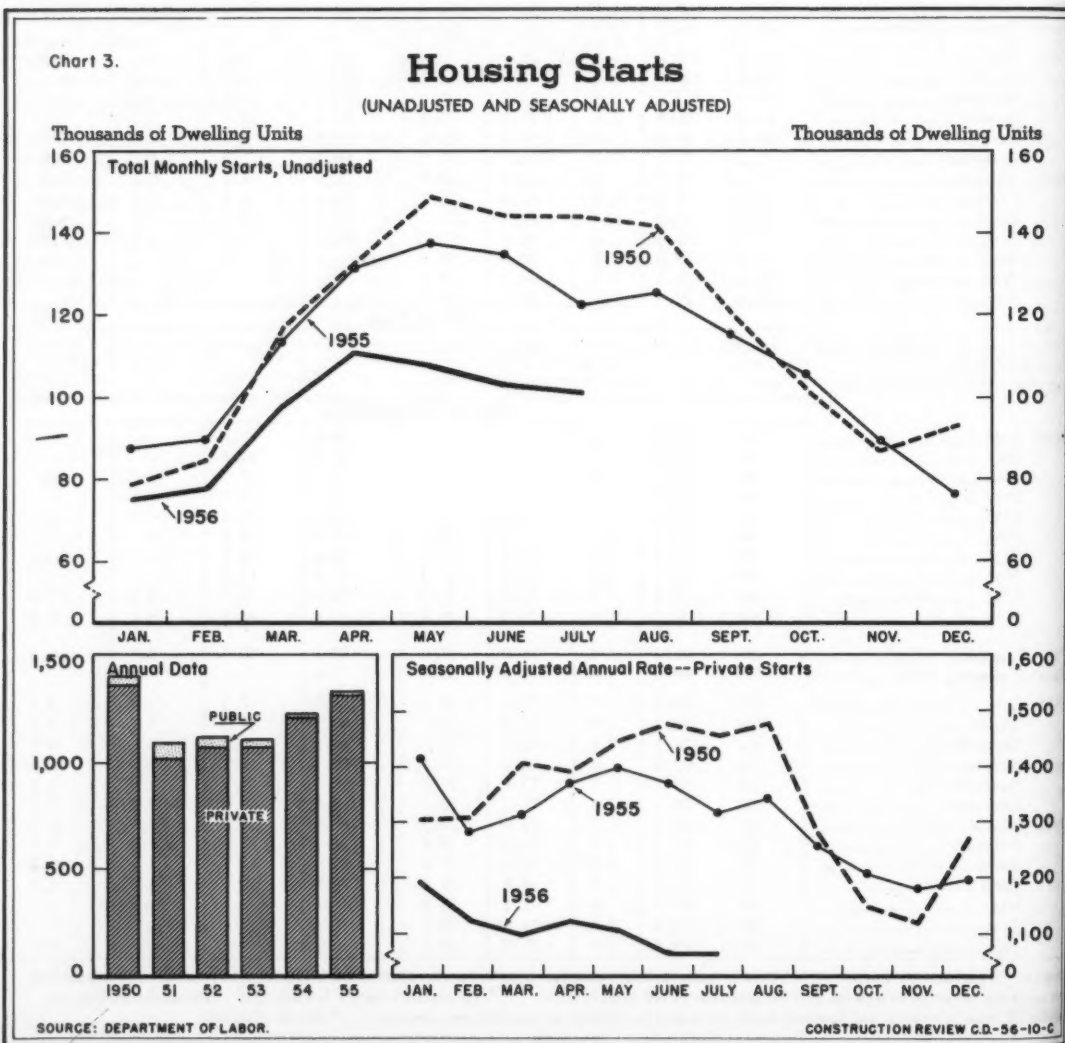
Period	Total	Ownership		Location ¹		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metro- politan	Nonmetro- politan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures		
							All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS (in thousands)									
Year: 1946.....	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947.....	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948.....	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949.....	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950.....	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951.....	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952.....	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953.....	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954.....	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
1955.....	1,328.9	1,309.5	19.4	975.8	353.1	1,194.4	134.5	49.2	85.3
First 7 months, 1955.....	818.1	806.9	11.2	605.0	213.1	734.7	83.4	30.6	52.8
First 7 months, 1956.....	676.2	662.9	13.3	482.8	193.4	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1955: July.....	122.7	121.9	.8	88.4	34.3	113.5	9.2	3.9	5.3
August.....	124.7	122.3	2.4	91.5	33.2	111.6	13.1	3.8	9.3
September.....	114.9	113.6	1.3	83.5	31.4	104.1	10.8	3.6	7.2
October.....	105.8	104.8	1.0	76.5	29.3	95.1	10.7	3.7	7.0
November.....	89.2	88.4	.8	64.6	24.6	80.4	8.8	4.3	4.5
December.....	76.2	73.5	2.7	54.7	21.5	68.5	7.7	3.2	4.5
1956: January.....	75.0	73.7	1.3	54.3	20.7	66.8	8.2	3.2	5.0
February.....	78.3	77.0	1.3	57.6	20.7	69.1	9.2	3.6	5.6
March.....	98.6	93.9	4.7	71.9	26.7	86.1	12.5	4.4	8.1
April.....	111.3	109.9	1.4	76.1	35.2	100.0	11.3	4.1	7.2
May.....	108.0	107.0	1.0	76.8	31.2	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
June.....	104.0	102.3	1.7	74.7	29.3	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
July.....	101.0	99.1	1.9	71.4	29.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Percent change									
First 7 months, 1955-56.....	-17.3	-17.8	+18.8	-20.2	-9.2	--	--	--	--
June-July, 1956.....	-2.9	-3.1	+11.8	-4.4	+1.0	--	--	--	--
July, 1955-56.....	-17.7	-18.7	+137.5	-19.2	-13.7	--	--	--	--
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Year: 1946.....	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947.....	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948.....	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949.....	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950.....	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951.....	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952.....	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953.....	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
1955.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.4	26.6	89.9	10.1	3.7	6.4
First 7 months, 1955.....	100	98.6	1.4	74.0	26.0	89.8	10.2	3.7	6.5
First 7 months, 1956.....	100	98.0	2.0	71.4	28.6	--	--	--	--
1955: July.....	100	99.3	.7	72.0	28.0	92.5	7.5	3.2	4.3
August.....	100	98.1	1.9	73.4	26.6	89.5	10.5	3.0	7.5
September.....	100	98.9	1.1	72.7	27.3	90.6	9.4	3.1	6.3
October.....	100	99.1	.9	72.3	27.7	89.9	10.1	3.5	6.6
November.....	100	99.1	.9	72.4	27.6	90.1	9.9	4.8	5.1
December.....	100	96.5	3.5	71.8	28.2	89.9	10.1	4.2	5.9
1956: January.....	100	98.3	1.7	72.4	27.6	89.1	10.9	4.3	6.6
February.....	100	98.3	1.7	73.6	26.4	88.3	11.7	4.6	7.1
March.....	100	95.2	4.8	72.9	27.1	87.3	12.7	4.5	8.2
April.....	100	98.7	1.3	68.4	31.6	89.8	10.2	3.7	6.5
May.....	100	99.1	.9	71.1	28.9	--	--	--	--
June.....	100	98.4	1.6	71.8	28.2	--	--	--	--
July.....	100	98.1	1.9	70.7	29.3	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. ² Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. ³ Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. ⁴ Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	682	709	756	719	698	662	642	638	601	607	612	647
1947.....	694	720	696	710	749	802	847	899	981	1,018	1,013	962
1948.....	938	829	955	1,019	997	990	969	898	862	806	802	807
1949.....	800	796	814	885	905	929	964	1,028	1,094	1,156	1,240	1,250
1950.....	1,306	1,310	1,406	1,390	1,448	1,476	1,460	1,478	1,282	1,149	1,120	1,269
1951.....	1,343	1,156	1,068	990	983	948	925	961	1,052	1,002	976	967
1952.....	1,000	1,086	1,060	1,037	1,039	1,029	1,084	1,075	1,099	1,121	1,100	1,092
1953.....	1,102	1,083	1,122	1,134	1,097	1,082	1,045	1,021	1,024	1,026	1,050	1,032
1954.....	1,056	1,081	1,086	1,121	1,111	1,175	1,221	1,244	1,260	1,275	1,377	1,458
1955.....	1,416	1,286	1,314	1,374	1,398	1,371	1,318	1,346	1,262	1,209	1,179	1,192
1956.....	1,195	1,127	1,094	1,157	1,110	1,070	1,070					

Source: Department of Labor.



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Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST													
1946.....	\$5,250	\$5,400	\$5,850	\$5,575	\$5,475	\$5,425	\$5,375	\$5,450	\$5,450	\$5,625	\$5,675	\$5,575	\$5,525
1947.....	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948.....	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949.....	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950.....	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951.....	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952.....	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953.....	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954.....	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955.....	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	11,400	11,475	11,525	11,575	11,575	11,575	11,625	11,350
1956.....	11,325	11,750	12,150	12,275	(1)	(1)	(1)						
Percent change, 1955 to 1956													
	+7.1	+5.6	+8.0	+9.1	--	--	--						

Source: Department of Labor.

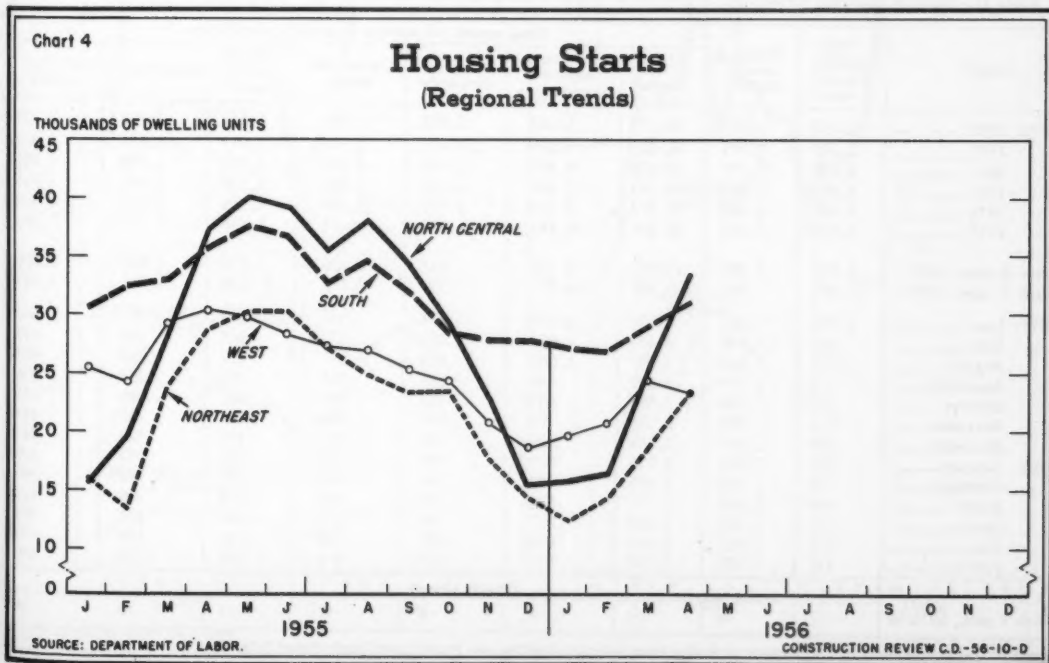
¹ Not yet available.

Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region ¹

Region	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)										Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1955-56	
	1955					1956				First 4 months		
	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1955		1956
TOTAL	132.0	114.9	105.8	89.2	76.2	75.0	78.3	98.6	111.3	423.3	363.2	-14.2
Northeast	28.6	23.4	23.5	17.7	14.3	12.4	14.4	18.9	23.4	81.7	69.1	-15.4
North Central	37.3	34.4	29.4	23.0	15.6	15.7	16.4	26.1	33.6	100.7	91.8	- 8.8
South	35.7	31.9	28.5	27.8	27.7	27.3	26.8	29.2	31.0	131.6	114.3	-13.1
West	30.4	25.2	24.4	20.7	18.6	19.6	20.7	24.4	23.3	109.3	88.0	-19.5

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.



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Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals Requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started (in thousands)	In appraisal requests	Started (in thousands)	U. S. total	FHA- assisted	VA- assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950	625,343	486.7	(1)	200.0	100	36	15
1951	267,127	263.5	164,365	148.6	100	26	15
1952	323,753	280.0	226,299	141.3	100	26	13
1953	327,323	252.0	251,437	156.6	100	24	15
1954	383,334	276.3	535,412	307.0	100	23	26
1955	314,888	277.1	620,776	391.8	100	21	30
First 7 mos., 1955	213,314	172.8	421,307	233.2	100	21	29
First 7 mos., 1956	148,595	118.8	264,347	165.5	100	18	25
1955: July	25,033	26.0	51,412	37.4	100	21	31
August	27,294	26.9	55,974	40.8	100	22	33
September	23,840	24.7	45,063	33.4	100	22	29
October	19,836	18.6	43,143	34.8	100	18	33
November	16,921	17.5	30,397	28.1	100	20	32
December	13,683	16.2	24,892	21.6	100	22	29
1956: January	16,181	13.0	29,284	23.0	100	18	31
February	20,190	13.1	37,134	17.4	100	17	23
March	26,376	17.0	37,511	20.6	100	18	22
April	23,755	19.9	45,769	26.4	100	18	24
May	24,278	19.7	44,395	26.6	100	18	25
June	18,331	18.5	35,620	26.4	100	18	26
July	19,484	17.6	34,637	25.2	100	18	25
	Percent change						
First 7 mos., 1955-56..	-30	-31	-37	-29			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration. ¹ Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number (in thou- sands)	Average amount (dollars)	Total amount (in millions of dollars) recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950	3,032	5,335	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
1955	3,913	7,279	28,484	10,452	1,932	5,617	1,858	3,362	5,265
First 6 mos., 1955 ..	1,936	7,186	13,913	5,192	992	2,656	838	1,640	2,596
First 6 mos., 1956 ..	1,808	7,467	13,500	4,757	908	2,796	828	1,767	2,445
1955: June	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301	449
July	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283	425
August	366	7,362	2,697	1,060	163	521	179	310	463
September	342	7,377	2,522	946	155	505	168	292	456
October	326	7,320	2,387	835	153	505	167	285	441
November	314	7,380	2,316	765	152	499	171	285	443
December	293	7,457	2,188	700	156	457	166	268	441
1956: January	275	7,483	2,059	665	148	435	131	275	406
February	278	7,368	2,050	700	136	421	127	270	395
March	309	7,360	2,271	816	152	468	128	300	408
April	303	7,494	2,269	827	148	470	128	295	401
May	324	7,511	2,434	872	159	508	152	318	425
June	319	7,583	2,417	877	165	494	162	309	410
	Percent change								
First 6 mos., 1955-56	-7	+4	-3	-8	-8	+5	-1	+8	-6

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHBA).

Part III--Building Permits

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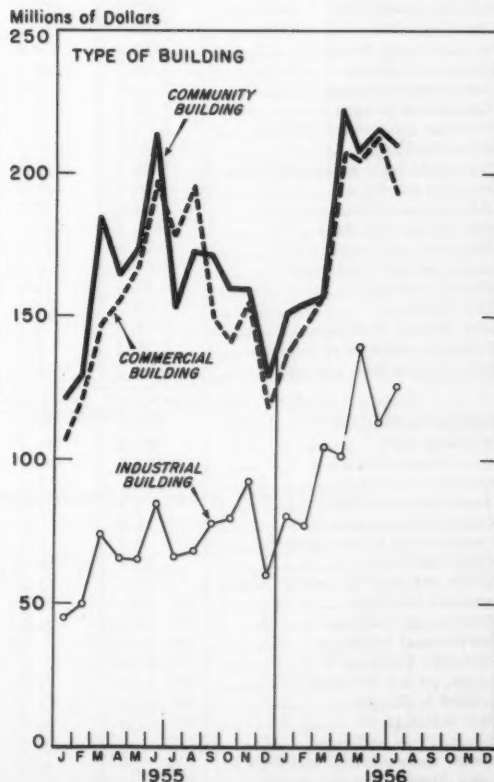
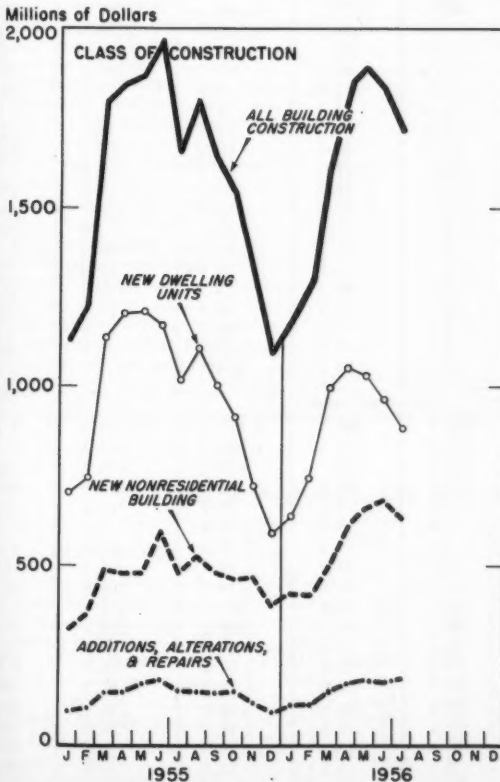
Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building Construction

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, July 1955-56
	1956			1955	First 7 months		
	July	June	May	July	1956	1955	
All building construction ¹	1,707.1	1,827.6	1,889.8	1,657.3	11,453.0	11,511.7	+ 3
Private	1,558.1	1,588.5	1,724.4	1,535.2	10,339.2	10,512.5	+ 1
Public	149.0	239.2	165.4	122.1	1,113.9	999.2	+22
New dwelling units ²	882.4	963.2	1,036.3	1,016.9	6,329.5	7,188.1	-13
Number of new dwelling units	(81,235)	(88,258)	(95,382)	(98,319)	(592,105)	(725,324)	(-17)
New nonresidential building	631.6	681.9	658.1	481.4	3,948.7	3,237.8	+31
Commercial buildings	193.0	211.9	204.8	178.5	1,256.6	1,072.6	+ 8
Stores and other mercantile buildings	82.5	85.1	102.1	90.4	608.9	582.7	- 9
All other commercial buildings	110.5	126.8	102.7	88.1	647.7	489.9	+25
Community buildings.....	209.4	215.5	207.9	154.6	1,317.2	1,146.5	+35
Industrial buildings.....	126.0	113.3	139.1	69.1	753.1	453.0	+82
All other nonresidential buildings	103.2	141.2	106.3	79.3	621.8	565.7	+30
Additions, alterations, and repairs	183.6	173.0	181.8	150.9	1,096.7	988.8	+22

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ² Housekeeping only.

Chart 5

Building Permit Activity



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region¹

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 6 months 1955-56
	1955	1956			First 6 months		
	June	Apr.	May	June	1955	1956	
UNITED STATES							
All building construction ²	1,968.2	1,863.0	1,889.8	1,827.6	9,854.4	9,745.9	- 1
New dwelling units ³	1,169.3	1,059.6	1,036.3	963.2	6,171.2	5,447.1	-12
New nonresidential building	597.2	612.2	658.1	681.9	2,756.4	3,317.1	+20
Commercial buildings	197.2	206.0	204.8	211.9	894.1	1,063.6	+19
Amusement buildings	10.3	13.8	14.4	10.7	57.5	58.2	+ 1
Commercial garages	5.7	6.3	5.9	6.8	31.4	29.8	- 5
Gasoline and service stations	13.4	14.2	16.2	15.2	69.7	79.1	+13
Office buildings	67.7	62.8	66.2	94.1	243.2	370.1	+52
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	100.2	109.0	102.1	85.1	492.3	526.4	+ 7
Community buildings	212.5	222.0	207.9	215.5	991.9	1,107.8	+12
Educational buildings	113.4	139.7	125.0	149.7	631.3	741.4	+17
Institutional buildings	49.3	35.0	37.8	26.5	163.5	146.1	-11
Religious buildings	49.8	47.2	45.1	39.3	197.1	220.3	+12
Garages, private residential	20.8	21.8	22.3	20.6	85.3	90.3	+ 6
Industrial buildings	85.5	101.5	139.1	113.3	383.9	627.1	+63
Public buildings	39.0	16.5	28.9	65.1	170.6	160.8	- 6
Public utilities buildings	22.5	24.6	30.0	34.0	136.8	148.0	+ 8
All other nonresidential buildings	19.7	19.8	25.1	21.4	93.8	119.4	+27
Additions, alterations, and repairs	180.6	176.4	181.8	173.0	837.9	913.1	+ 9
Northeast							
All building construction ²	459.3	453.3	400.5	427.5	2,140.8	2,086.1	- 3
New dwelling units ³	277.1	235.1	237.3	224.5	1,328.2	1,164.5	-12
New nonresidential building	133.0	174.9	121.0	163.0	609.4	714.9	+17
Commercial buildings	49.0	48.2	33.3	60.8	189.0	217.9	+15
Amusement buildings	2.0	3.8	2.2	2.8	9.6	13.9	+45
Commercial garages	1.3	3.3	1.4	1.4	9.5	9.5	0
Gasoline and service stations	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.0	12.1	14.2	+17
Office buildings	19.0	14.0	12.3	36.5	69.2	86.7	+25
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	24.2	24.6	14.5	17.0	88.7	93.5	+ 5
Community buildings	39.1	81.4	42.0	59.2	235.3	289.1	+23
Educational buildings	25.4	47.7	24.6	46.3	159.7	198.5	+24
Institutional buildings	2.3	22.3	8.2	5.8	31.9	43.8	+37
Religious buildings	11.4	11.4	9.2	7.2	43.7	46.9	+ 7
Garages, private residential	4.6	3.9	4.7	4.6	18.4	18.4	0
Industrial buildings	22.6	31.6	19.5	21.3	93.9	120.0	+28
Public buildings	2.7	2.0	13.3	4.1	16.8	25.0	+49
Public utilities buildings	8.9	4.1	4.0	7.5	30.5	22.8	-25
All other nonresidential buildings	6.2	3.7	4.1	5.5	25.5	21.7	-15
Additions, alterations, and repairs	41.2	39.5	39.2	38.1	185.1	192.2	+ 4
North Central							
All building construction ²	628.0	617.2	622.6	563.1	2,867.2	2,919.3	+ 2
New dwelling units ³	380.8	365.7	333.9	318.6	1,804.2	1,680.4	- 7
New nonresidential building	193.5	196.0	232.2	194.5	828.3	975.3	+18
Commercial buildings	54.2	59.1	71.8	46.8	238.1	289.6	+22
Amusement buildings	4.3	3.0	2.3	4.9	20.0	15.6	-22
Commercial garages	1.3	.9	1.8	2.1	7.4	7.3	- 1
Gasoline and service stations	4.7	4.3	5.2	5.2	21.8	22.8	+ 5
Office buildings	17.9	18.6	26.8	12.0	54.7	90.1	+65
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	26.1	32.2	35.7	22.6	134.2	153.8	+15
Community buildings	79.1	71.3	56.1	68.5	307.1	314.2	+ 2
Educational buildings	35.9	49.8	36.9	44.6	186.9	213.7	+14
Institutional buildings	30.4	6.3	6.4	12.0	59.6	36.9	-38
Religious buildings	12.8	15.2	12.8	11.9	60.6	63.6	+ 5
Garages, private residential	11.3	13.0	12.5	11.9	42.3	46.5	+10
Industrial buildings	34.7	35.1	69.8	39.9	138.0	216.5	+57
Public buildings	4.0	4.3	2.6	10.5	44.7	30.8	-31
Public utilities buildings	7.2	9.1	10.5	13.3	46.0	53.6	+17
All other nonresidential buildings	3.0	4.2	8.9	3.6	12.0	24.0	+100
Additions, alterations, and repairs	51.2	51.1	53.4	47.5	223.4	247.7	+11

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region¹--Continued

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 6 months 1955-56
	1955	1956			First 6 months		
	June	Apr.	May	June	1955	1956	
	South						
All building construction ²	464.3	396.3	444.3	401.5	2,518.1	2,335.8	- 7
New dwelling units ³	256.5	231.1	236.4	198.6	1,492.9	1,273.7	-15
New nonresidential building	152.0	118.0	155.8	155.6	757.4	799.0	+ 5
Commercial buildings	57.0	53.2	63.7	52.6	271.2	322.5	+19
Amusement buildings	2.5	4.9	4.0	1.7	19.6	14.4	-27
Commercial garages	2.3	1.3	2.1	2.2	11.4	8.1	-29
Gasoline and service stations	3.7	5.0	5.2	4.8	22.0	27.8	+26
Office buildings	20.8	18.2	19.3	19.0	67.8	115.6	+71
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	27.7	23.8	33.2	24.9	150.5	156.5	+ 4
Community buildings	58.2	36.2	52.3	48.1	275.1	264.5	- 4
Educational buildings	26.6	19.3	27.4	31.3	152.5	156.8	+ 3
Institutional buildings	10.3	3.6	12.0	5.8	54.2	39.0	-28
Religious buildings	21.3	13.4	12.9	10.9	68.4	68.6	(4)
Garages, private residential	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.5	9.6	9.9	+ 3
Industrial buildings	9.9	15.1	18.6	20.3	60.9	96.0	+58
Public buildings	17.3	3.5	5.1	26.7	70.9	48.8	-31
Public utilities buildings	3.2	5.2	10.1	2.3	44.2	38.0	-14
All other nonresidential buildings ...	4.5	2.7	4.1	4.1	25.5	19.2	-25
Additions, alterations, and repairs	49.3	43.3	47.7	44.5	233.5	244.1	+ 5
	West						
All building construction ²	416.6	396.1	422.4	435.6	2,328.2	2,404.8	+ 3
New dwelling units ³	254.9	227.7	228.6	221.6	1,545.9	1,328.6	-14
New nonresidential building	118.7	123.2	149.1	168.8	561.2	827.8	+48
Commercial buildings	37.0	45.6	35.9	51.8	195.8	233.7	+19
Amusement buildings	1.4	2.1	5.9	1.3	8.5	14.2	+67
Commercial garages .....	.9	.8	.7	1.1	3.1	4.9	+58
Gasoline and service stations	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.1	13.9	14.3	+ 3
Office buildings	9.9	11.9	7.8	26.7	51.5	77.7	+51
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	22.3	28.4	18.6	20.6	118.9	122.6	+ 3
Community buildings	36.2	33.1	57.6	39.7	174.4	239.9	+38
Educational buildings	25.5	23.0	36.1	27.5	132.3	172.3	+30
Institutional buildings	6.3	2.8	11.3	2.9	17.8	26.4	+48
Religious buildings	4.4	7.3	10.2	9.3	24.4	41.2	+69
Garages, private residential	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.6	14.9	15.5	+ 4
Industrial buildings	18.3	19.7	31.2	31.8	91.2	194.4	+113
Public buildings	15.0	6.7	7.8	23.8	38.2	56.2	+47
Public utilities buildings	3.2	6.2	5.5	10.9	16.0	33.6	+110
All other nonresidential buildings	6.0	9.2	8.0	8.2	30.7	54.5	+78
Additions, alterations, and repairs	38.9	42.5	41.6	42.8	196.0	229.0	+17

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. ² Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ³ Housekeeping only. ⁴ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Number of Nonresidential Buildings, by Type of Building

Type of building	1955			1956					
	June	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Amusement buildings	1,122	193	92	105	143	186	284	285	266
Commercial garages	221	192	143	128	124	216	196	202	173
Educational buildings	642	323	342	388	396	463	419	497	566
Garages, private residential	25,511	14,341	6,882	6,758	7,214	14,234	22,588	25,136	23,380
Gasoline and service stations	946	682	660	643	757	843	940	1,024	981
Industrial buildings	1,283	1,184	938	1,080	1,091	1,349	1,550	1,486	1,358
Institutional buildings	93	77	49	62	52	78	83	79	83
Office buildings	674	521	434	512	582	715	742	710	711
Religious buildings	591	416	301	315	361	471	607	613	561
Stores & other mercantile bldgs. ..	3,214	2,380	2,056	2,137	2,566	3,160	3,504	3,446	2,839

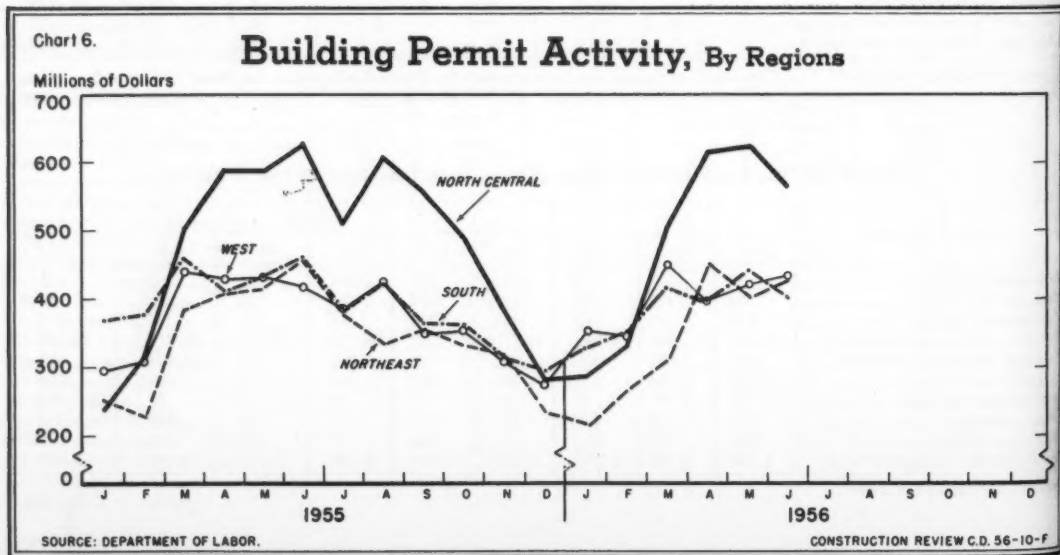
Source: Department of Labor.

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Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region ¹

(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation (in millions of dollars)					Number of dwelling units				
	1955		1956		First 6 months	1955		1956		First 6 months
	June	May	June	May	1955	June	May	June	1955	1956
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units..	1,169.3	1,036.3	963.2	6,171.2	5,447.1	115,221	95,382	88,258	627,005	510,870
Privately owned	1,151.1	1,023.4	937.1	6,089.5	5,347.5	113,158	94,005	85,710	618,021	501,171
1-family	1,082.9	956.0	878.2	5,674.4	4,981.0	102,236	83,817	76,546	551,063	444,356
2-4 family	28.2	30.8	25.2	164.1	157.7	4,288	4,392	3,817	26,371	23,489
5-or-more family	40.0	36.6	33.7	251.1	208.7	6,634	5,796	5,347	40,587	33,326
Publicly owned	18.2	12.9	26.1	81.6	99.7	2,063	1,377	2,548	8,984	9,699
Northeast										
All new dwelling units..	277.1	237.3	224.5	1,328.2	1,164.5	27,196	21,075	20,040	130,810	105,660
Privately owned	262.3	231.5	214.3	1,283.8	1,108.8	25,437	20,361	18,864	125,784	100,225
1-family	238.2	219.9	201.9	1,147.9	1,022.6	22,079	18,779	17,178	107,858	88,539
2-4 family	5.9	7.6	5.7	33.8	36.3	876	993	799	4,890	4,934
5-or-more family	18.3	4.1	6.6	102.1	49.8	2,482	589	887	13,036	6,752
Publicly owned	14.8	5.8	10.2	44.3	55.7	1,759	714	1,176	5,026	5,435
North Central										
All new dwelling units..	380.8	333.9	318.6	1,804.2	1,680.4	32,744	26,627	25,934	156,172	135,482
Privately owned	380.8	333.9	313.3	1,789.7	1,661.2	32,744	26,625	25,434	154,653	133,517
1-family	368.5	318.0	298.4	1,711.8	1,587.3	31,335	24,886	23,671	145,216	125,158
2-4 family	9.8	10.0	7.8	45.6	46.1	1,033	983	901	5,168	4,863
5-or-more family	2.4	5.9	7.1	32.2	27.7	376	756	862	4,269	3,496
Publicly owned	0	(2)	5.3	14.5	19.3	0	2	500	1,519	1,965
South										
All new dwelling units..	256.5	236.4	198.6	1,492.9	1,273.7	28,693	24,447	20,938	174,634	135,959
Privately owned	253.1	229.7	195.9	1,482.6	1,257.7	28,389	23,824	20,715	173,506	134,408
1-family	241.5	213.1	187.6	1,407.3	1,182.8	25,841	21,252	18,918	157,035	121,201
2-4 family	4.6	4.6	4.3	34.8	28.4	1,025	913	848	7,536	5,732
5-or-more family	7.0	12.0	4.0	40.5	46.5	1,523	1,659	949	8,935	7,475
Publicly owned	3.4	6.8	2.7	10.3	16.0	304	623	223	1,128	1,551
West										
All new dwelling units..	254.9	228.6	221.6	1,545.9	1,328.6	26,588	23,233	21,346	165,389	133,769
Privately owned	254.9	228.4	213.7	1,533.4	1,319.9	26,588	23,195	20,697	164,078	133,021
1-family	234.7	205.0	190.3	1,407.3	1,188.3	22,981	18,900	16,779	140,954	109,458
2-4 family	7.8	8.8	7.5	49.9	47.0	1,354	1,503	1,269	8,777	7,960
5-or-more family	12.4	14.6	16.0	76.3	84.6	2,253	2,792	2,649	14,347	15,603
Publicly owned	0	.2	7.9	12.5	8.7	0	38	649	1,311	748

Source: Department of Labor.
than \$50,000.¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. ² Less

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Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

State	(Millions of dollars)								Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1955-56
	1955	1956					First 5 months		
	May	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1955	1956	
ALL STATES	1,870.2	1,179.1	1,299.2	1,677.1	1,863.0	1,889.8	7,886.2	7,918.3	(1)
Metropolitan areas	1,484.4	930.5	1,040.6	1,302.8	1,441.7	1,492.0	6,339.1	6,210.4	- 2
Nonmetropolitan areas	385.8	248.6	258.6	374.3	421.3	397.8	1,547.1	1,707.9	+10
Alabama	15.1	13.8	14.0	15.1	13.9	17.0	68.9	73.9	+ 7
Arizona	14.2	11.0	18.4	15.7	12.2	19.3	74.0	76.6	+ 4
Arkansas	4.0	3.4	5.1	6.0	5.7	5.7	24.0	25.8	+ 8
California	289.7	241.7	254.7	314.9	269.8	286.6	1,319.9	1,368.1	+ 4
Colorado	25.8	19.1	22.6	22.8	25.5	20.7	118.9	110.8	- 7
Connecticut	38.3	16.6	32.0	22.0	37.6	37.9	150.1	146.1	- 3
Delaware	5.3	5.9	2.8	3.7	5.2	5.0	24.5	22.7	- 7
District of Columbia	5.4	2.7	2.5	5.4	3.1	5.5	46.7	19.2	-59
Florida	59.5	61.9	70.1	70.1	69.1	73.8	310.2	344.9	+11
Georgia	22.6	18.5	19.8	24.6	20.0	26.7	114.4	109.5	- 4
Idaho	4.0	1.3	1.1	3.9	4.4	6.3	13.7	17.0	+24
Illinois	148.0	77.5	86.2	137.4	138.5	138.6	511.2	578.2	+13
Indiana	40.4	19.9	27.0	30.8	39.9	45.2	149.8	162.8	+ 9
Iowa	18.9	5.8	9.0	16.2	21.1	21.4	71.5	73.6	+ 3
Kansas	14.7	9.8	12.1	20.4	14.6	13.2	73.9	70.1	- 5
Kentucky	17.0	6.4	10.6	13.0	19.4	20.0	65.2	69.5	+ 7
Louisiana	25.7	23.9	22.0	27.8	27.6	30.5	137.6	131.9	- 4
Maine	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.8	4.6	10.1	12.6	+25
Maryland	52.3	23.5	33.5	41.6	39.5	37.2	219.7	175.4	-20
Massachusetts	45.3	24.7	25.6	36.9	50.2	45.1	178.0	189.3	+ 6
Michigan	111.3	52.1	67.2	89.3	119.4	124.5	436.4	452.6	+ 4
Minnesota	44.3	11.2	17.1	26.2	46.0	51.9	157.3	152.4	- 3
Mississippi	4.7	3.8	3.9	4.9	6.2	5.0	21.6	23.8	+10
Missouri	23.4	17.4	20.2	31.5	37.4	26.6	134.4	133.2	- 1
Montana	6.3	1.2	1.2	5.6	3.4	5.0	15.6	16.3	+ 4
Nebraska	11.5	3.1	4.9	7.8	8.9	7.2	45.5	31.8	-30
Nevada	8.3	3.7	3.1	6.1	5.1	3.9	34.5	22.0	-36
New Hampshire	3.6	1.1	1.1	2.0	4.2	6.2	14.5	14.6	+ 1
New Jersey	79.6	48.7	65.1	70.1	90.9	83.8	334.7	358.6	+ 7
New Mexico	8.6	7.2	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.8	39.9	31.3	-22
New York	155.4	77.7	92.2	111.5	167.3	132.6	612.0	582.8	- 5
North Carolina	21.2	15.1	21.1	21.3	19.1	29.5	101.4	106.5	+ 5
North Dakota	4.8	.4	.4	.9	7.1	5.0	12.4	13.8	+11
Ohio	123.0	65.6	63.7	101.1	119.8	132.0	458.6	482.5	+ 5
Oklahoma	12.1	10.4	10.4	11.6	11.4	13.9	72.0	57.8	-20
Oregon	18.9	10.5	12.0	14.5	16.9	23.9	67.8	77.9	+15
Pennsylvania	82.7	40.4	45.9	68.3	94.9	84.1	358.0	333.6	- 7
Rhode Island	4.9	2.7	2.9	2.9	4.7	4.4	20.7	17.6	-15
South Carolina	8.2	5.9	9.0	6.6	6.5	7.7	45.8	35.7	-22
South Dakota	4.2	2.2	1.0	3.4	4.7	4.5	14.2	15.8	+11
Tennessee	20.3	16.8	12.8	19.9	21.4	20.3	94.3	91.2	- 3
Texas	97.9	87.4	82.3	88.4	77.1	84.3	471.2	419.4	-11
Utah	12.9	32.2	7.1	12.0	11.3	12.0	46.2	74.6	+61
Vermont	1.3	.4	.1	.3	.7	1.9	3.4	3.4	0
Virginia	50.2	25.0	29.0	46.1	45.0	55.8	208.4	201.4	- 3
Washington	40.3	23.0	20.3	46.3	39.2	35.9	173.5	164.7	- 5
West Virginia	12.1	4.4	4.1	4.7	6.0	6.2	28.0	25.5	- 9
Wisconsin	47.3	18.8	22.9	35.6	59.6	52.6	174.0	189.5	+ 9
Wyoming	2.2	1.3	1.2	3.0	2.2	2.1	7.6	9.8	+29

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 17.—Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

State	(Housekeeping units only)							First 5 months		Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1955-56
	1955	1956						1955	1956	
	May	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1955	1956		
ALL STATES	120,515	62,818	71,110	94,623	98,116	95,382	511,784	422,612	-17	
Metropolitan areas	95,700	49,149	55,052	73,636	74,414	73,209	408,466	325,518	-20	
Nonmetropolitan areas	24,815	13,669	16,058	20,987	23,702	22,173	103,318	97,094	-6	
Alabama	1,292	1,055	858	1,131	994	1,252	5,957	5,290	-11	
Arizona	1,605	976	958	1,267	887	1,334	6,949	5,422	-22	
Arkansas	337	259	254	465	402	306	2,143	1,686	-21	
California	20,092	14,433	16,298	18,869	16,382	16,045	98,933	82,027	-17	
Colorado	1,705	1,151	1,008	1,595	1,541	1,492	9,445	6,787	-28	
Connecticut	2,027	724	1,162	1,270	1,812	1,861	7,557	6,829	-10	
Delaware	344	375	129	215	318	166	1,668	1,203	-28	
District of Columbia	287	33	42	375	79	317	1,752	846	-52	
Florida	4,266	4,644	4,979	5,027	4,929	5,043	23,479	24,622	+5	
Georgia	2,038	1,433	1,538	1,627	1,559	1,628	9,169	7,785	-15	
Idaho	261	61	39	133	188	196	818	617	-25	
Illinois	8,627	3,326	3,654	6,725	6,659	5,944	28,531	26,308	-8	
Indiana	2,333	962	1,004	1,626	2,064	1,981	8,542	7,637	-11	
Iowa	1,105	281	368	827	1,085	982	3,827	3,543	-7	
Kansas	1,119	657	719	963	847	845	4,955	4,031	-19	
Kentucky	1,474	482	480	872	1,150	1,006	5,065	3,990	-21	
Louisiana	1,378	879	772	1,077	1,552	1,146	6,629	5,426	-18	
Maine	169	29	18	67	158	238	512	510	(1)	
Maryland	2,623	1,364	1,964	2,499	2,572	2,195	14,881	10,594	-29	
Massachusetts	2,650	1,126	1,386	1,995	2,339	2,658	10,679	10,009	-6	
Michigan	6,768	2,788	3,632	5,061	5,687	4,650	25,093	21,818	-13	
Minnesota	2,226	553	548	1,281	2,088	1,960	7,584	6,430	-15	
Mississippi	331	324	282	295	238	255	1,620	1,394	-14	
Missouri	1,263	931	1,037	1,450	1,568	1,307	7,356	6,293	-14	
Montana	311	48	65	151	193	226	855	683	-20	
Nebraska	769	202	243	589	569	463	2,706	2,066	-24	
Nevada	595	209	164	491	353	204	1,675	1,421	-15	
New Hampshire	276	60	67	107	202	263	878	699	-20	
New Jersey	5,717	2,144	4,332	4,046	4,529	4,699	22,623	19,750	-13	
New Mexico	757	218	338	385	425	411	3,027	1,777	-41	
New York	10,905	5,262	4,636	6,821	7,332	6,741	40,033	30,800	-23	
North Carolina	1,373	865	1,318	1,126	1,051	1,121	6,354	5,481	-14	
North Dakota	277	22	10	40	261	215	645	548	-15	
Ohio	6,962	2,580	2,828	4,455	5,334	5,523	24,550	20,744	-16	
Oklahoma	845	525	702	706	684	700	5,048	3,317	-34	
Oregon	927	412	451	680	738	923	3,394	3,204	-6	
Pennsylvania	4,722	1,547	1,866	3,635	4,388	4,241	19,692	15,674	-20	
Rhode Island	311	134	193	257	311	326	1,514	1,221	-19	
South Carolina	494	384	440	428	350	376	2,494	1,978	-21	
South Dakota	254	42	43	140	221	204	895	650	-27	
Tennessee	1,875	1,115	861	1,260	1,240	1,131	8,340	5,607	-33	
Texas	7,017	4,266	4,213	5,048	4,198	4,437	34,676	22,162	-36	
Utah	680	436	469	753	583	733	2,947	2,974	+1	
Vermont	47	18	8	12	42	48	126	128	+2	
Virginia	3,767	1,417	2,206	2,613	3,024	3,055	15,299	12,344	-19	
Washington	2,149	967	1,050	1,668	1,744	1,568	10,223	6,997	-32	
West Virginia	358	147	194	308	334	313	1,367	1,296	-5	
Wisconsin	2,655	883	1,219	2,036	2,789	2,553	8,744	9,480	+8	
Wyoming	152	69	65	156	123	101	535	514	-4	

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1955	1956					First 5 months		Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1955-56
	May	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1955	1956	
Atlanta, Ga.	14.5	11.2	11.0	12.0	11.5	17.5	72.7	63.3	-13
Baltimore, Md.	31.4	14.0	19.0	21.7	19.2	16.3	124.2	90.1	-27
Birmingham, Ala.	7.1	5.9	4.7	8.0	6.0	7.7	29.8	32.2	+8
Boston, Mass.	24.2	12.1	15.5	17.7	28.5	25.3	97.9	99.0	+1
Buffalo, N. Y.	15.0	7.8	6.5	23.3	15.1	14.3	61.0	67.0	+10
Chicago, Ill.	135.8	73.3	78.2	118.6	122.9	124.0	451.0	516.9	+15
Cleveland, Ohio	33.9	20.0	22.8	38.3	39.0	39.4	136.8	159.5	+17
Columbus, Ohio	16.5	10.8	7.3	9.1	13.3	17.1	53.7	57.6	+7
Denver, Colo.	17.0	11.8	16.7	14.4	17.8	12.8	78.4	73.5	-6
Detroit, Mich.	74.9	37.6	49.7	61.1	69.1	87.7	292.6	305.2	+4
Indianapolis, Ind.	14.4	4.5	10.4	7.7	9.4	18.9	43.1	51.0	+18
Los Angeles, Calif.	148.6	140.1	128.4	159.3	125.5	142.4	681.0	696.1	+2
Memphis, Tenn.	7.4	7.6	3.9	6.4	6.7	5.2	37.2	29.8	-20
Miami, Fla.	20.0	18.7	16.6	23.1	23.1	28.3	115.4	109.7	-5
Milwaukee, Wis.	16.6	8.9	11.1	16.2	21.5	25.0	74.3	82.7	+11
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	154.5	92.9	110.1	115.5	175.9	141.9	646.2	637.7	-1
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	5.4	3.1	3.9	5.5	4.0	13.6	31.6	30.2	-4
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.2	7.4	12.8	10.7	7.5	11.1	52.3	49.5	-5
Rochester, N. Y.	8.8	2.7	3.0	4.6	7.2	7.2	36.6	24.6	-33
Salt Lake City, Utah	4.3	4.3	4.6	6.3	5.6	5.5	23.4	26.3	+12
San Diego, Calif.	14.1	9.4	13.4	22.4	15.6	16.4	70.6	77.1	+9
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	45.2	30.1	38.5	45.3	46.3	46.0	207.0	206.3	(1)
Seattle, Wash.	17.3	9.3	10.2	13.6	18.5	12.0	80.1	63.7	-20
Washington, D. C.	35.2	18.9	21.1	27.8	32.0	31.6	177.9	131.7	-26

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1955	1956					First 5 months		Percent change, 1st 5 mos. 1955-56
	May	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1955	1956	
Atlanta, Ga.	1,216	747	861	980	922	966	5,397	4,476	-17
Baltimore, Md.	1,091	625	1,091	1,471	1,220	1,013	7,621	5,420	-29
Birmingham, Ala.	548	394	300	447	355	473	2,320	1,969	-15
Boston, Mass.	1,073	498	745	836	997	1,280	4,852	4,356	-10
Buffalo, N. Y.	1,154	417	376	1,517	900	943	4,403	4,153	-6
Chicago, Ill.	7,865	3,010	3,275	5,863	5,689	5,117	25,405	22,954	-10
Cleveland, Ohio	1,537	722	806	1,188	1,218	1,173	6,438	5,107	-21
Columbus, Ohio	955	560	347	491	625	649	2,994	2,672	-11
Denver, Colo.	1,084	776	656	1,068	1,021	957	6,711	4,478	-33
Detroit, Mich.	4,545	1,831	2,682	3,669	3,466	2,864	16,859	14,512	-14
Indianapolis, Ind.	622	222	284	407	473	742	2,939	2,128	-9
Los Angeles, Calif.	10,431	9,094	8,536	8,916	8,115	7,879	50,573	42,540	-16
Memphis, Tenn.	879	476	295	415	416	374	3,928	1,976	-50
Miami, Fla.	1,360	1,404	1,209	1,677	1,557	1,562	7,752	7,409	-4
Milwaukee, Wis.	942	460	606	921	1,008	1,091	3,445	4,086	+19
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	11,057	5,365	5,545	6,644	7,618	7,182	42,421	32,362	-24
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	536	220	270	338	277	732	3,152	1,842	-42
Phoenix, Ariz.	1,333	653	699	922	587	916	5,358	3,777	-30
Rochester, N. Y.	539	171	176	257	294	362	2,007	1,260	-37
Salt Lake City, Utah	278	252	359	374	316	319	1,610	1,620	+1
San Diego, Calif.	958	691	1,115	1,336	1,139	1,113	4,886	5,394	+10
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	2,934	1,217	1,882	2,829	2,264	2,074	14,436	10,266	-29
Seattle, Wash.	958	485	637	747	821	686	4,751	3,376	-29
Washington, D. C.	2,499	910	1,137	1,544	2,322	1,898	10,912	7,835	-28

Source: Department of Labor.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 20.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Type of Building Construction

Type of building construction	May 1956 (Thousands of dollars)							
	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction ¹	17,535	16,260	7,672	25,259	14,341	123,994	39,400	17,071
New dwelling units ²	8,912	11,272	3,747	14,176	9,797	73,097	18,731	8,606
New nonresidential building	7,331	3,380	2,791	6,907	3,520	41,485	18,511	7,304
Commercial buildings	1,498	1,226	2,526	2,391	1,134	15,962	4,780	6,308
Amusement buildings	64	23	4	21	132	783	175	75
Commercial garages	76	0	0	335	7	32	129	310
Gasoline and service stations	205	310	53	175	178	521	86	62
Office buildings	0	62	506	1,143	295	7,568	763	5,225
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	1,153	832	1,963	717	521	7,058	3,628	636
Community buildings	926	974	177	3,029	235	6,306	2,439	707
Educational buildings	422	839	61	2,272	100	3,662	180	687
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	0	100	500	2,065	0
Religious buildings	504	135	116	757	35	2,144	193	20
Garages, private residential	21	104	25	190	420	2,702	690	221
Industrial buildings	4,086	142	21	675	1,343	13,485	2,835	58
Public buildings	678	0	0	527	0	259	0	0
Public utilities buildings	75	760	0	35	3	2,009	4,222	0
All other nonresidential buildings	47	175	42	61	385	762	3,545	10
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,293	1,608	1,135	4,172	951	8,759	2,075	1,161
	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction ¹	12,790	87,660	18,910	142,399	5,214	28,291	24,981	141,855
New dwelling units ²	8,826	36,188	8,744	77,508	2,693	14,251	12,418	86,211
New nonresidential building	2,089	43,153	9,180	49,972	1,605	10,678	10,817	43,431
Commercial buildings	519	7,639	6,117	9,173	158	3,988	630	10,919
Amusement buildings	158	1	40	427	0	1,578	45	767
Commercial garages	27	60	65	13	0	0	145	147
Gasoline and service stations	128	513	142	396	37	220	32	847
Office buildings	86	1,181	2,178	2,099	106	727	118	3,198
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	120	5,883	3,692	6,239	16	1,464	290	5,960
Community buildings	583	3,487	318	17,058	492	19	5,630	11,160
Educational buildings	272	2,669	0	8,035	0	0	4,753	7,679
Institutional buildings	0	111	0	7,705	0	19	0	1,780
Religious buildings	311	708	318	1,318	492	0	877	1,701
Garages, private residential	231	2,501	136	921	132	61	535	1,012
Industrial buildings	704	28,839	521	17,071	0	474	3,363	6,067
Public buildings	15	80	0	412	79	331	620	12,150
Public utilities buildings	11	236	1,686	1,087	174	5,424	17	885
All other nonresidential buildings	26	371	402	4,249	569	381	23	1,238
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,833	8,107	958	14,368	916	2,704	1,717	11,804
	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction ¹	13,570	11,102	7,180	5,503	16,370	45,983	12,035	31,594
New dwelling units ²	6,189	7,645	5,439	3,624	10,705	22,204	8,467	22,185
New nonresidential building	7,016	2,753	1,059	1,480	4,645	17,733	2,051	6,468
Commercial buildings	447	1,123	234	524	576	7,691	558	1,660
Amusement buildings	8	51	40	12	40	4,476	109	47
Commercial garages	0	0	0	0	14	269	75	15
Gasoline and service stations	112	23	86	138	14	220	132	212
Office buildings	53	121	0	42	226	663	70	329
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	274	928	108	332	281	2,063	173	1,057
Community buildings	5,692	877	415	72	948	2,342	1,166	3,417
Educational buildings	15	263	280	0	777	1,202	716	201
Institutional buildings	5,575	106	0	0	8	102	0	1,500
Religious buildings	102	508	135	72	163	1,038	450	1,715
Garages, private residential	79	10	213	86	241	198	102	52
Industrial buildings	5	552	89	437	911	4,168	38	207
Public buildings	665	138	0	269	1,738	1,447	68	941
Public utilities buildings	115	0	0	0	2	1,389	0	58
All other nonresidential buildings	13	53	108	92	229	497	119	134
Additions, alterations, and repairs	365	667	683	399	966	5,433	1,500	2,821

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately.² Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

25

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction ¹

Ownership and type of construction ²	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 6 months, 1955-56
	1955	1956						First 6 months		
	June	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1955	1956	
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1, 103. 0	807. 8	648. 1	878. 4	920. 1	852. 7	1,066. 6	4, 511. 1	5, 193. 7	+15
FEDERALLY OWNED	327. 2	114. 6	119. 6	178. 8	208. 2	163. 0	327. 8	876. 5	1, 112. 0	+27
Residential building	12. 7	3. 0	12. 7	7. 6	7. 1	9. 3	12. 0	21. 9	51. 7	+136
Nonresidential building	240. 3	48. 3	39. 8	88. 3	112. 7	77. 7	163. 6	562. 2	530. 4	- 6
Educational.....	. 9	. 2	(3)	3. 0	2. 9	. 5	4. 3	2. 9	10. 9	+276
Hospital and institutional	44. 2	5. 5	. 3	4. 5	3. 5	10. 9	5. 2	66. 9	29. 9	-55
Administrative and general	9. 1	2. 8	4. 2	8. 4	6. 5	17. 0	20. 5	27. 6	59. 4	+115
Other nonresidential building	186. 1	39. 8	35. 3	72. 4	99. 8	49. 3	133. 6	464. 8	430. 2	- 7
Airfield building	28. 7	11. 9	7. 2	8. 4	4. 2	6. 6	8. 8	86. 5	47. 1	-46
Industrial	90. 6	9. 9	7. 0	41. 9	38. 4	21. 0	44. 5	198. 3	162. 7	-18
Troop housing	8. 6	10. 9	9. 0	1. 6	8. 1	1. 2	40. 1	36. 0	70. 9	+97
Warehouses.....	25. 8	1. 2	1. 3	2. 5	32. 6	4. 9	4. 0	53. 8	46. 5	-14
All other	32. 4	5. 9	10. 8	18. 0	16. 5	15. 6	36. 2	90. 2	103. 0	+14
Airfields	18. 4	15. 4	17. 1	7. 5	17. 2	7. 5	17. 7	95. 8	82. 4	-14
Conservation and development	29. 6	41. 1	29. 2	66. 9	51. 1	28. 6	41. 6	110. 3	258. 5	+134
Highway	10. 4	2. 2	8. 4	2. 9	4. 8	6. 6	17. 3	32. 5	42. 2	+30
Electric power	3. 3	2. 0	5. 5	2. 1	5. 0	28. 2	64. 3	20. 8	107. 1	(4)
All other federally owned.....	12. 5	2. 6	6. 9	3. 5	10. 3	5. 1	11. 3	33. 0	39. 7	+20
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED.....	775. 8	693. 2	528. 5	699. 6	711. 9	689. 7	758. 8	3, 634. 6	4, 081. 7	+12
Residential building	19. 4	10. 5	22. 0	38. 8	18. 3	21. 1	22. 7	102. 1	133. 4	+31
Nonresidential building	262. 1	254. 9	186. 0	279. 4	296. 8	295. 1	287. 5	1, 429. 3	1, 599. 7	+12
Educational	182. 8	192. 8	145. 1	215. 4	204. 1	205. 9	184. 1	1, 044. 4	1, 147. 4	+10
Hospital and institutional.....	19. 4	35. 5	9. 4	12. 4	25. 0	34. 3	28. 0	105. 1	144. 6	+38
Administrative and general.....	27. 7	10. 3	17. 4	32. 6	30. 6	21. 8	40. 1	127. 5	152. 8	+20
Other nonresidential building.....	32. 2	16. 3	14. 1	19. 0	37. 1	33. 1	35. 3	152. 3	154. 9	+ 2
Highway	349. 7	246. 3	234. 3	279. 0	265. 3	249. 1	305. 1	1, 387. 9	1, 579. 1	+14
Sewerage systems	49. 1	114. 6	30. 5	42. 9	51. 3	45. 0	60. 1	240. 7	344. 4	+43
Water supply facilities	27. 3	29. 1	26. 7	30. 6	38. 3	33. 3	44. 0	161. 0	202. 0	+25
Utilities	57. 5	29. 1	20. 0	11. 2	23. 1	31. 6	27. 7	253. 5	142. 7	-44
Electric power	36. 7	15. 4	5. 7	2. 6	12. 4	7. 9	8. 6	166. 1	52. 6	-68
Other utilities	20. 8	13. 7	14. 3	8. 6	10. 7	23. 7	19. 1	87. 4	90. 1	+ 3
All other State and locally owned....	10. 7	8. 7	9. 0	17. 7	18. 8	14. 5	11. 7	60. 1	80. 4	+34

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. ² Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. ³ Less than \$50,000. ⁴ Percent increase exceeds 300.

Table 22.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility ¹

Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 6 months, 1955-56
	1955	1956						First 6 months		
	June	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1955	1956	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	360.1	248.5	242.7	281.9	270.1	255.7	322.4	1,420.4	1,621.3	+14
FEDERALLY OWNED	10.4	2.2	8.4	2.9	4.8	6.6	17.3	32.5	42.2	+30
STATE OWNED	296.4	228.0	219.1	254.8	219.0	200.7	248.2	1,204.1	1,369.8	+14
Federally aided projects:										
Total value	139.3	154.8	105.4	127.8	127.0	116.8	162.3	564.3	794.1	+41
Federal funds	72.9	77.2	53.8	70.3	64.3	61.8	83.9	301.1	411.3	+37
Independent State projects:										
Total value	157.1	73.2	113.7	127.0	92.0	83.9	85.9	639.8	575.7	-10
Toll facilities	84.7	37.8	67.3	76.4	17.5	15.1	11.4	356.9	225.5	-37
LOCALLY OWNED ²	53.3	18.3	15.2	24.2	46.3	48.4	56.9	183.8	209.3	+14

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes force-account work started on Federal and State projects. ² By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

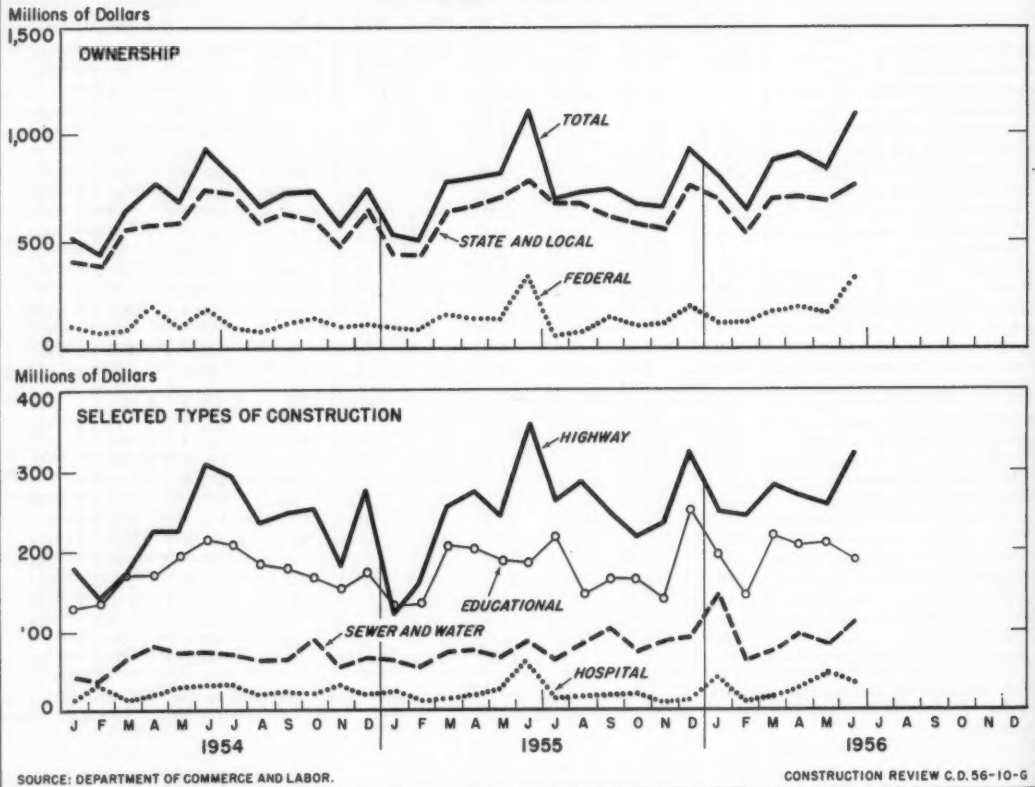


Table 23.—Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)			Percent change		
	July 1956	June 1956	First 7 months, 1956	July 1956 from—		First 7 months, 1955-56
				June 1956	July 1955	
TOTAL	2, 149	2, 198	15, 348	- 2	- 5	+ 8
Building construction	1, 606	1, 620	11, 912	- 1	-13	+ 4
Residential	758	826	6, 457	- 8	-21	+ 1
Nonresidential	848	794	5, 455	+ 7	- 5	+ 9
Engineering	543	578	3, 436	- 6	+29	+22
Public works	374	418	2, 528	-10	+13	+24
Utilities	169	160	908	+ 6	+92	+17

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Part V--Costs

27

Table 24.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, July 1955-56
	1956						1953	1954	1955	
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	July	July	July	
American Appraisal Company	132.6	133.0	133.6	134.3	134.9	135.7	123.4	125.7	130.0	+ 4.
Associated General Contractors	139.8	139.8	139.8	141.0	142.6	144.4	127.1	132.7	137.0	+ 5
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	127.5	128.0	128.9	129.8	130.1	130.3	122.4	120.7	124.6	+ 5
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	134.4	134.8	135.7	136.9	137.4	138.0	127.0	127.1	131.5	+ 5
Commercial and factory buildings	135.9	136.4	137.3	138.4	138.9	139.9	127.7	128.2	133.1	+ 5
Engineering News-Record (as of Aug. 1):										
Building	142.9	143.6	144.1	144.5	144.7	145.3	129.2	134.7	141.4	+ 3
Construction	150.1	150.8	152.0	152.8	153.4	153.7	135.2	141.6	148.4	+ 4
Department of Commerce composite ¹	127.9	128.6	129.4	130.3	130.8	131.3	123.1	121.9	125.6	+ 5

Source: Department of Commerce.
relative importance of each type.

¹ A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current

Table 25.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, July 1955-56
	1956						1953	1954	1955	
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	July	July	July	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS ¹	129.6	130.5	131.3	130.8	130.6	130.6	121.3	120.5	125.7	+ 4
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	128.2	129.9	130.6	130.4	129.6	128.4	120.2	118.6	125.1	+ 3
Douglas fir	133.2	135.3	136.0	135.7	133.8	131.6	117.8	125.2	132.3	- 1
Southern pine	117.6	120.7	120.6	120.2	119.2	119.5	115.2	111.2	113.6	+ 5
Other softwoods	139.2	139.7	140.8	140.3	140.2	138.8	134.8	130.0	138.2	(2)
Hardwoods	125.4	126.9	128.2	128.4	128.3	127.2	116.2	111.9	118.9	+ 7
Millwork	129.1	128.9	128.9	129.2	129.5	129.7	131.6	130.7	128.3	+ 1
Plywood	107.5	107.5	106.9	102.7	101.0	102.3	112.7	103.0	105.7	- 3
Softwood	112.1	112.1	111.4	103.1	99.7	102.2	115.4	108.9	110.7	- 8
Hardwood	105.0	105.0	104.4	104.4	104.4	104.4	110.9	98.8	102.6	+ 2
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	110.7	112.8	114.8	+ 4
Paint materials	100.4	101.4	101.6	101.2	99.4	98.6	95.3	97.6	97.1	+ 2
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	141.9	146.2	157.5	0
Hardware, finish	143.4	145.8	147.2	147.2	147.2	147.2	133.4	135.8	139.9	+ 5
Plumbing equipment	133.1	133.1	133.9	135.0	134.1	134.1	116.4	118.5	123.2	+ 9
Enameled iron fixtures	131.9	131.9	125.3	125.3	125.3	125.3	126.2	129.2	129.3	- 3
Vitreous china fixtures	124.1	124.1	124.2	124.2	124.2	124.2	107.5	111.7	117.3	+ 6
Brass fittings	138.1	138.1	141.9	143.9	143.0	143.0	115.5	116.5	123.4	+16
Heating equipment	117.1	117.1	117.3	117.3	117.4	118.0	115.1	114.0	113.6	+ 4
Furnaces	123.8	123.8	123.8	124.0	124.0	124.2	118.6	120.8	119.8	+ 4
Water heaters	108.0	107.1	107.1	106.6	106.5	108.3	111.8	107.6	107.4	+ 1
Metal sash	146.3	146.3	146.3	140.9	140.9	139.9	127.3	127.3	144.2	- 3
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	141.7	132.0	132.0	137.5	+ 3
Glass, window	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	141.2	143.5	131.3	131.3	138.8	+ 3
Concrete ingredients	129.9	130.0	130.0	130.1	130.4	130.9	118.4	122.1	125.0	+ 5
Portland cement	138.5	138.6	138.9	138.9	139.4	140.4	123.8	128.2	131.8	+ 7
Concrete products	121.1	121.1	121.7	121.7	121.9	122.8	115.6	117.7	118.3	+ 4
Structural clay products	145.6	145.9	146.0	146.1	146.5	149.2	131.1	132.0	141.3	+ 6
Gypsum products	127.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	+ 4
Asphalt roofing	99.6	106.5	111.9	111.9	111.9	118.3	105.8	98.5	110.8	+ 7
Insulation materials	105.5	101.9	101.9	100.7	99.6	100.9	107.8	110.1	106.7	- 5
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	133.3	133.3	138.1	138.1	138.1	138.1	123.0	127.9	129.7	+ 6
Kitchen cabinets, metal	135.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	127.2	127.6	131.7	+ 4

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes items not shown separately.

² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 26.—Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1956		1955
		June	May	June
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	\$76.013	\$77.385	\$77.119
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	68.086	70.160	67.767
Timbers, wide, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	85.645	87.024	74.905
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	85.765	85.887	80.456
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	81.891	83.035	77.174
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	82.210	83.670	80.050
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	199.509	200.489	191.970
Maple flooring 2d grade, 25/32" x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	202.081	199.452	178.090
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	60.000	60.000	55.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	56.000	56.000	47.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	Each	4.528	4.452	4.829
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16" x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	Each	9.372	9.372	9.326
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	Each	1.681	1.681	1.662
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	72.251	76.053	80.807
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	63.384	63.074	70.660
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	57.500	57.500	54.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	Gallon	2.510	2.510	2.399
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.874	3.874	3.706
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.802	4.802	4.628
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.116	3.116	2.945
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.477	4.477	4.348
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.867	4.867	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	5.313	5.313	4.963
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	7.770	7.770	7.220
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	16.997	16.997	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	21.137	21.137	18.605
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	100 lb. keg	8.595	8.595	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	Ton	(106.7)	(105.6)	(111.3)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	Pound	\$0.408	\$0.408	\$0.377
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	Foot	.343	.343	.281
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	M ft.	23.120	23.120	14.110
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	Linear ft. roll	30.780	30.780	24.540
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	55.113	55.113	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	13.497	13.497	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	24.682	24.682	23.242
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	15.687	16.634	16.634

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1956		1955
		June	May	June
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	\$190.342	\$190.342	\$183.142
Convactor, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Sq. ft., incl. enclosure	.451	.451	.433
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	242.671	242.671	247.732
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	165.998	165.998	157.008
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	57.217	57.217	62.070
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type) 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	100.961	100.961	102.225
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	40.366	39.092	38.350
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.229	1.227	1.160
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.508	1.505	1.395
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.610	1.610	1.589
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	Each	.179	.179	.175
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8' lengths, delivered	Foot	3.938	3.931	3.810
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	30.946	30.565	28.846
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	39.998	39.498	37.717
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	Thousand	134.556	134.556	126.629
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	Foot	.520	.520	.488
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	24.990	24.990	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	32.830	32.830	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Ton	15.928	15.928	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Square	5.595	5.595	5.349
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	Ton	20.306	20.306	19.444
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Square	10.996	10.824	10.306

Source: Department of Labor.

Part VI--Materials

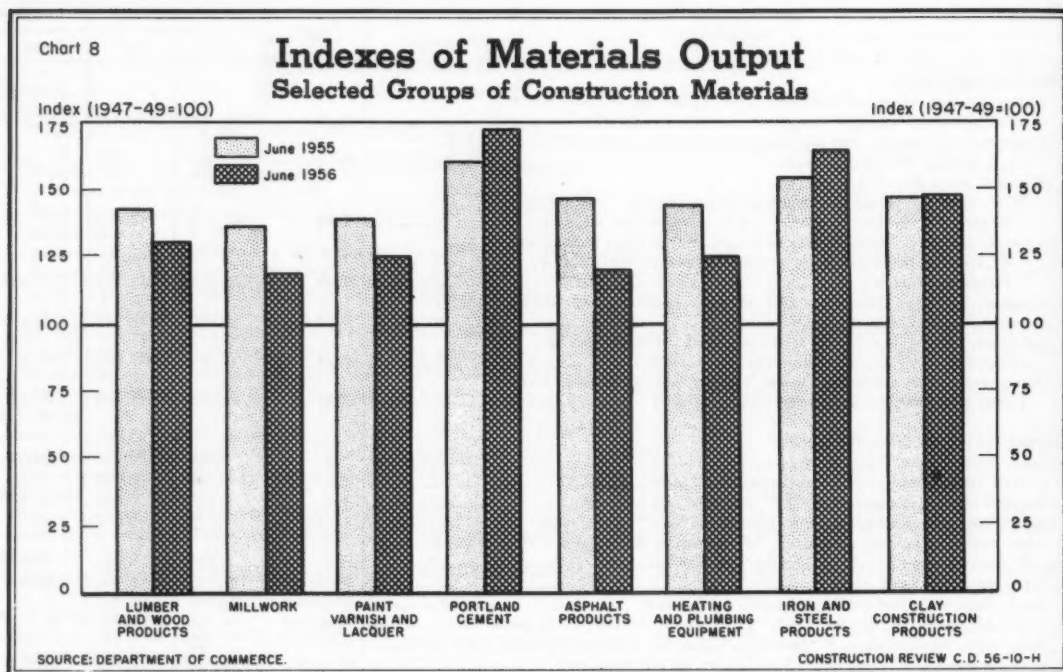


Table 27.--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

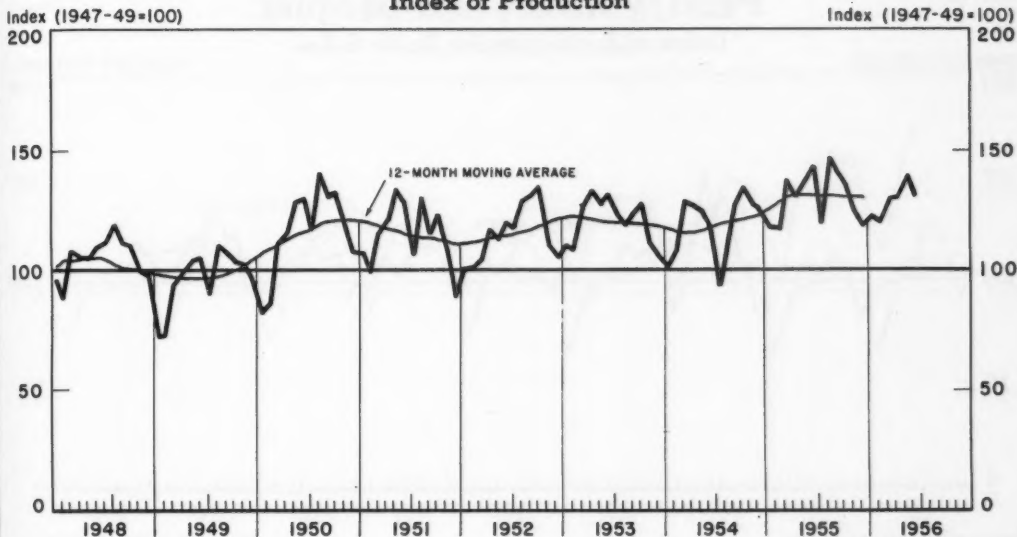
Materials group	Monthly Indexes												
	1955							1956					
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Lumber and wood products....	142.3	119.6	146.0	139.7	135.3	124.6	117.6	121.0	119.5	129.0	129.3	138.6	129.9
Millwork	135.9	108.8	141.7	143.1	134.3	128.3	103.9	107.7	122.9	128.0	125.5	126.3	118.4
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	138.8	111.8	123.4	118.1	107.1	105.9	100.3	112.3	114.4	120.4	117.9	129.3	124.4
Portland cement	160.1	163.5	166.7	161.1	167.0	148.9	138.0	128.2	117.1	139.9	156.3	177.1	172.1
Asphalt products	146.8	107.0	146.8	126.2	122.4	110.1	71.2	68.5	100.3	130.0	80.8	113.6	119.0
Heating and plumbing equipment	143.8	116.9	180.6	183.2	164.0	139.7	107.7	126.8	118.0	133.3	116.6	125.4	124.1
Iron and steel products	154.2	127.6	144.1	149.5	145.0	134.9	132.3	136.4	143.4	155.7	152.2	165.6	164.1
Clay construction products..	147.1	135.6	150.1	151.3	148.0	146.0	136.4	136.1	129.2	146.4	137.6	146.5	147.3
	Quarterly Indexes												
	1955							1956					
	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter		Fourth quarter	First quarter		Second quarter		Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Gypsum products	168.9		173.7		180.3		185.4	187.6		188.6			
Plumbing fixtures	133.5		141.3		130.4		142.2	140.6		135.7			

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following.

Chart 9.

Lumber and Wood Products

Index of Production



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-1

Table 28.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (Million board feet)			Hardwood flooring (Thousand board feet)			Douglas fir plywood (Million square feet)	Insulating boards (Tons)	Hardboard (Tons)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production		
1947-49 average.....	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1953.....	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	950,889	423,418
1954.....	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,013,340	493,258
1955.....	31,563	31,432	5,429	1,268,104	1,258,914	70,045	4,901	1,119,213	536,845
12 months ending:									
March 1956.....	31,277	31,117	--	1,267,518	1,241,603	--	5,036	1,131,569	547,786
April 1956.....	31,189	30,983	--	1,261,013	1,228,413	--	5,070	1,146,986	550,602
May 1956.....	31,183	30,936	--	1,260,358	1,222,733	--	5,093	1,161,030	553,028
June 1956.....	30,902	30,492	--	1,245,241	1,204,425	--	5,036	1,181,916	554,052
1955: June.....	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July.....	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
August.....	3,038	2,962	4,952	114,156	113,495	52,424	415	102,681	46,482
September.....	2,871	2,756	5,066	109,338	110,585	50,483	423	95,722	44,438
October.....	2,728	2,605	6,665	105,945	104,909	51,644	428	101,344	46,860
November.....	2,442	2,360	5,254	106,217	98,949	58,812	423	93,644	45,836
December.....	2,280	2,106	5,429	97,765	86,532	70,045	414	93,748	42,426
1956: January.....	2,305	2,227	5,495	100,999	94,957	76,187	448	91,924	49,731
February.....	2,289	2,288	5,486	97,393	93,162	81,877	443	93,920	44,164
March.....	2,483	2,593	5,380	102,516	99,491	88,249	470	105,377	46,777
April.....	2,541	2,620	5,311	97,788	94,970	83,056	447	103,267	47,380
May.....	2,796	2,780	5,327	108,891	104,107	87,890	432	106,204	49,185
June.....	2,665	2,603	5,392	100,955	98,374	88,216	372	102,483	46,603
Percent change									
June, 1955-56.....	-10	-15	+8	-13	-16	+65	-13	+26	+2
First 6 mos., 1955-56.....	-4	-6	--	-3	-9	--	+9	+12	+6

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census.

* As of end of period.

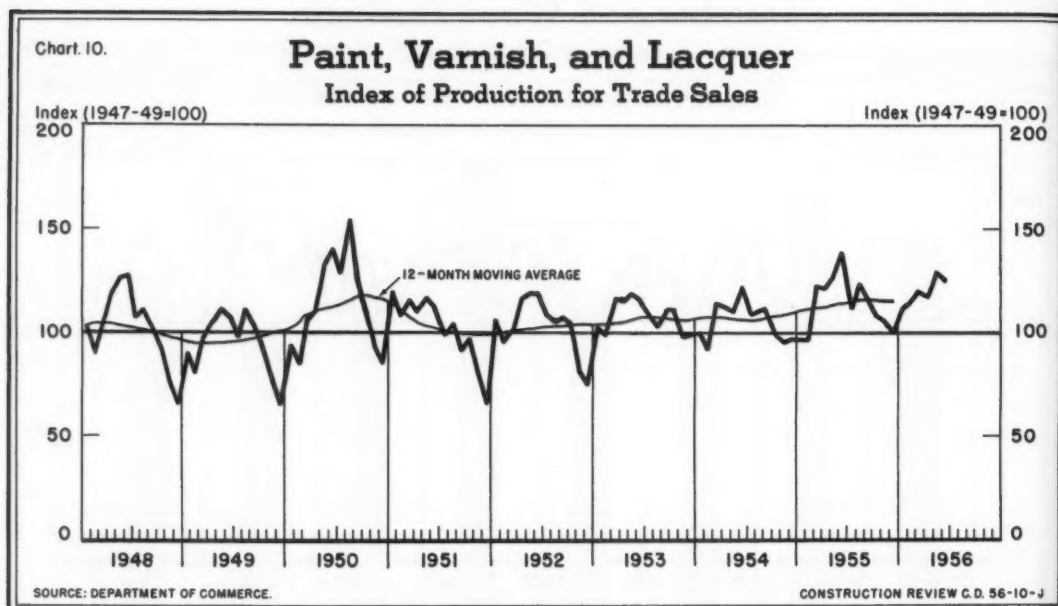


Table 29.—Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (Thousands of units)					Production for trade sales (Thousands of gallons)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1953	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	288,094
1954	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	282,979
1955	(1)	2,253	6,786	12,733	7,259	304,476
12 months ending:						
March 1956	(1)	2,174	6,668	12,014	6,922	311,275
April 1956	(1)	2,155	6,640	11,765	6,807	310,447
May 1956	(1)	2,149	6,658	11,628	6,736	311,055
June 1956	(1)	2,131	6,613	11,368	6,585	307,861
1955: June	216	182	579	1,104	720	30,844
July	184	133	490	817	537	24,845
August	229	203	613	1,163	704	27,423
September	239	202	621	1,137	713	26,255
October	(1)	206	528	1,174	681	23,797
November	(1)	193	517	1,145	591	23,529
December	(1)	149	454	897	414	22,282
1956: January	(1)	166	480	873	442	24,954
February	(1)	189	561	896	463	25,423
March	(1)	182	625	771	460	26,768
April	(1)	168	618	738	476	26,197
May	(1)	176	572	913	535	28,738
June	(1)	164	534	844	569	27,650
Percent change						
June, 1955-56	--	-10	-8	-24	-21	-10
First 6 mos., 1955-56	--	-10	-5	-21	-19	-2

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

¹Not available.

Chart II.

Portland Cement

Index of Production

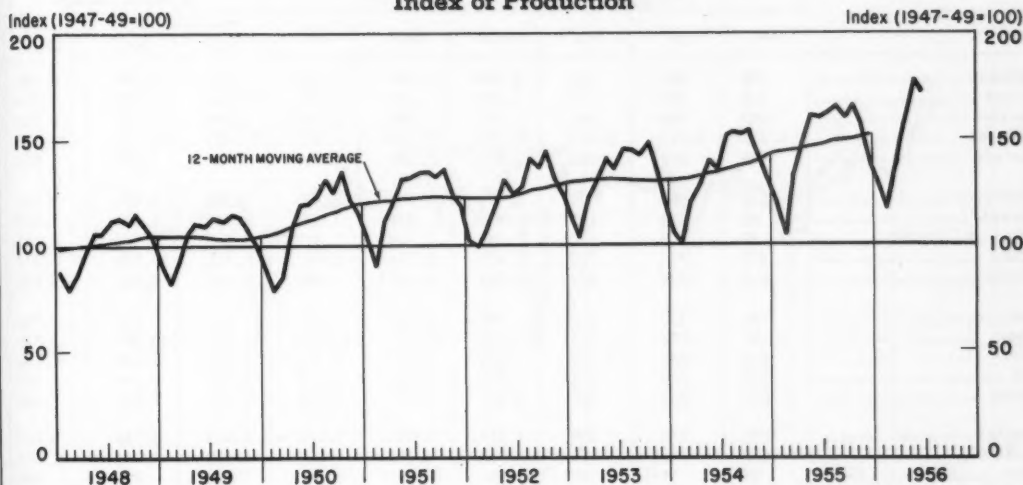


Table 30.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Pro- duction	Ship- ments	Stocks*	Shipments (Thousands of squares)				Shipments (Million square feet)	
	(Thousands of barrels)			Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Gypsum board ¹	Gypsum lath ¹
	Portland cement								
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1953.....	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954.....	271,277	274,096	16,731	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
1955.....	296,829	296,275	17,536	62,930	1,293	2,193	34,609	4,911	2,926
12 months ending:									
March 1956.....	301,059	297,847	--	64,912	1,319	2,224	33,925	5,069	2,962
April 1956	302,375	299,813	--	62,764	1,285	2,203	32,690	5,165	3,034*
May 1956	304,950	302,373	--	62,291	1,272	2,178	32,699		
June 1956.....	306,959	303,063	--	61,053	1,258	2,141	31,865		
1955: June	26,762	31,606	18,855	6,950	109	233	3,647	1,200	724
July	27,332	29,467	16,727	5,225	91	200	2,312	1,232	771
August.....	27,861	31,883	12,731	7,183	124	253	3,238		
September	26,958	29,867	9,779	6,242	139	255	2,496		
October	27,924	28,950	8,753	5,948	150	229	2,624	1,298	748
November	24,894	21,985	11,663	4,617	128	169	3,483		
December	23,075	17,203	17,536	2,707	74	93	2,704		
1956: January.....	21,440	13,500	25,456	3,188	83	94	1,798	1,339	719
February.....	19,578	16,093	28,939	4,624	112	116	2,784		
March.....	23,386	22,471	29,854	6,157	120	183	3,294		
April.....	26,134	27,261	28,675	3,951	64	151	1,742	1,296	796
May.....	29,606	32,087	26,198	5,499	78	202	2,577		
June	28,771	32,296	22,679	5,712	95	196	2,813		
Percent change									
June, 1955-56	+8	+2	+20	-18	-13	-16	-23	² + 8	² +10
First 6 mos., 1955-56.....	+7	+5	--	- 6	- 6	- 5	-15	+11	+ 8

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census.

* As of end of period.

¹ Data reported on quarterly basis.

² Change from same 1955 quarter.

Table 31.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

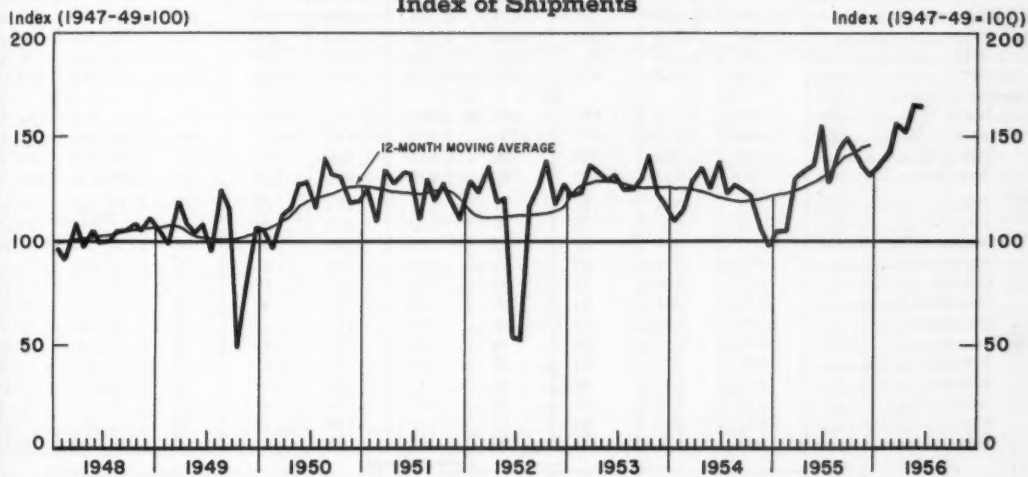
State	1956			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	Mar.	Apr.	May	1953	1954	1955	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1956	May 1956
Alabama	504	486	455	4,260	3,943	3,949	4,068	4,249	4,385
Arizona	228	209	237	2,433	2,215	2,337	2,300	2,283	2,294
Arkansas	180	164	201	1,762	1,894	2,519	2,098	2,005	1,933
California	3,229	2,827	3,194	27,737	28,528	31,553	32,671	32,761	33,118
Colorado	488	360	391	2,941	3,285	3,486	3,780	3,808	3,867
Connecticut	218	363	479	3,194	3,258	3,380	3,388	3,437	3,530
Delaware	68	113	105	902	910	1,097	1,124	1,161	1,169
District of Columbia	89	112	134	1,249	1,324	1,395	1,369	1,346	1,345
Florida	413	715	785	7,487	8,354	8,997	8,420	8,378	8,404
Georgia	814	424	456	4,644	4,441	5,198	5,636	5,633	5,632
Idaho	38	110	122	986	1,215	923	913	935	950
Illinois	1,187	1,587	1,761	13,439	14,973	14,670	15,108	15,391	15,626
Indiana	634	849	1,190	6,568	6,724	8,073	8,319	8,466	8,926
Iowa	338	753	932	4,941	5,863	5,883	5,923	6,314	6,487
Kansas	607	782	802	5,801	6,576	7,248	7,413	7,350	7,344
Kentucky	263	330	359	3,354	3,026	3,636	3,665	3,718	3,744
Louisiana	622	639	811	5,728	6,292	7,347	7,767	7,851	8,073
Maine	24	55	120	894	857	961	893	856	866
Maryland	398	600	649	4,676	4,447	4,882	5,041	5,182	5,322
Massachusetts	279	507	736	4,351	4,180	5,239	5,214	5,262	5,367
Michigan	749	1,257	1,621	12,716	13,076	13,991	14,160	14,232	14,332
Minnesota	364	534	659	4,968	5,500	5,838	5,862	5,918	5,816
Mississippi	179	168	194	1,696	1,732	1,972	1,971	1,995	2,013
Missouri	649	809	782	6,796	7,556	7,824	7,789	7,849	7,957
Montana	54	107	156	949	1,019	951	974	1,015	1,075
Nebraska	200	330	425	3,384	3,724	3,485	3,490	3,526	3,472
Nevada	58	68	62	618	842	737	724	719	716
New Hampshire	26	77	163	549	827	1,147	1,120	1,117	1,150
New Jersey	581	895	1,021	8,581	9,164	9,337	9,245	9,317	9,347
New Mexico	169	199	212	1,860	2,111	1,996	1,943	1,956	1,984
New York	1,009	1,661	2,209	19,134	20,290	19,399	19,215	19,221	19,289
North Carolina	380	382	409	3,715	4,009	4,414	4,397	4,375	4,293
North Dakota	74	106	162	1,148	1,161	1,150	1,188	1,143	1,195
Ohio	1,004	1,413	1,589	14,286	16,003	17,320	17,546	17,618	17,284
Oklahoma	457	452	452	4,158	4,364	4,785	4,725	4,683	4,716
Oregon	172	246	264	2,445	2,081	2,398	2,319	2,418	2,443
Pennsylvania	795	1,316	1,574	15,234	15,108	16,077	15,727	15,732	15,633
Rhode Island	34	96	108	857	685	822	799	827	847
South Carolina	221	205	237	2,217	1,993	2,461	2,529	2,532	2,514
South Dakota	55	85	134	1,246	1,116	1,221	1,210	1,206	1,233
Tennessee	412	446	474	4,856	4,683	5,088	5,219	5,275	5,316
Texas	2,054	1,905	1,992	16,158	19,081	20,781	20,500	20,660	20,907
Utah	146	194	219	1,343	1,508	1,835	1,929	1,951	1,973
Vermont	10	26	41	300	242	294	293	297	298
Virginia	436	495	566	4,701	4,474	4,801	4,884	4,957	5,063
Washington	365	455	519	5,413	5,684	5,656	5,286	5,202	5,160
West Virginia	118	151	202	1,921	2,379	2,053	2,054	2,071	2,105
Wisconsin	350	558	783	6,127	5,840	5,977	6,106	6,191	6,302
Wyoming	42	62	75	538	585	578	607	622	634

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

Chart 12.

Iron and Steel Products

Index of Shipments



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-L

Table 32.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Shipments	Bookings	Back-log ¹
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe		Rigid steel conduit				Fabricated structural steel
							Pressure	Soil				
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1953.....	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954.....	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	227	3,136	2,510	743
1955.....	3,083	2,163	2,865	651	391	1,233	1,682	869	280	2,981	3,693	1,029
12 months ending:												
March 1956.....	3,436	2,331	3,049	645	415	1,287	1,752	855	295	3,157	4,035	--
April 1956.....	3,487	2,375	3,077	633	421	1,298	1,758	849	307	3,205	4,144	--
May 1956.....	3,589	2,390	3,114	626	418	1,291	1,761	865	321	3,288	4,199	--
June 1956.....	3,573	2,456	3,146	624	420	1,270	(2)	(2)	343	3,291	4,218	--
1955: June.....	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July.....	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	219	369	1,009
August.....	315	197	242	56	32	88	156	85	21	268	312	1,060
September.....	295	186	269	58	33	95	165	82	25	289	339	1,049
October.....	265	202	260	53	41	86	161	76	26	284	309	1,068
November.....	260	194	256	40	34	74	149	67	24	259	345	1,088
December.....	278	194	262	35	36	98	134	46	24	248	368	1,029
1956: January.....	274	182	269	50	30	131	131	59	22	251	405	1,176
February.....	288	174	273	49	32	114	133	64	27	285	331	1,199
March.....	299	217	291	56	39	131	132	74	28	307	366	1,187
April.....	304	228	267	50	33	129	152	70	31	290	379	1,107
May.....	367	230	273	56	37	114	172	91	35	306	358	1,224
June.....	332	275	279	72	41	106	(2)	(2)	45	285	337	1,193
Percent change												
June, 1955-56.....	- 5	+32	+13	-3	+ 5	-17	--	--	+96	+ 1	+ 6	+20
First 6 mos., 1955-56.....	+36	+29	+20	-8	+16	+ 7	--	--	+51	+22	+32	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSC) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months. ² Not yet available.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 33.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (Million brick)		Structural clay tile (Thousand tons)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (Thousand tons)		Hollow facing tile (Million brick equivalent)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (Thousand square feet)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
1955	7,148	7,010	839	835	1,925	1,880	493	482	187,991	187,828
12 months ending:										
March 1956	7,382	7,056	836	802	1,981	1,956	503	491	197,050	194,326
April 1956	7,440	7,076	837	791	1,955	1,937	515	498	199,871	195,795
May 1956	7,498	7,085	834	780	1,925	1,896	520	499	203,475	197,369
June 1956	7,490	7,033	817	762	1,910	1,882	521	497	205,632	196,525
1955: June	654	684	77	77	179	197	43	45	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	41	40	14,414	15,036
August	677	680	73	81	173	193	46	46	16,504	16,969
September	676	678	69	74	183	188	41	40	16,967	17,215
October	657	638	72	74	172	172	38	37	17,467	16,917
November	633	581	70	64	174	157	38	37	17,668	16,543
December	567	480	69	60	163	118	43	40	16,986	16,308
1956: January	565	435	69	54	155	121	43	42	17,527	15,972
February	536	455	63	51	157	155	43	39	15,781	15,481
March	611	541	68	55	173	159	48	45	18,173	16,638
April	627	625	66	59	117	128	49	45	17,371	16,289
May	672	661	65	61	127	137	47	43	18,681	17,065
June	646	632	60	59	164	183	44	43	18,093	16,092
Percent change										
June, 1955-56	- 1	-8	-22	-23	-8	-7	+ 2	-4	+14	- 5
First 6 mos., 1955-56	+10	+1	- 5	-17	-2	+1	+11	+6	+20	+10

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSD) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 34.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region ¹

Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	June 1956		First 6 months 1956		June 1956		First 6 months 1956	
	Quantity	Percent change from June 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1955-56	Quantity	Percent change from June 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1955-56
Brick, common and face (thousands)								
U. S. TOTAL	646,423	- 1	3,658,027	+10	632,217	- 8	3,349,923	+ 1
New England	14,913	+ 7	71,351	+24	14,234	+16	64,378	+23
Middle Atlantic	101,502	- 5	570,685	+12	108,797	-10	510,336	- 2
East North Central	144,323	- 2	822,282	+ 8	142,461	-10	765,203	+ 2
West North Central	36,900	+11	192,797	+13	38,382	+ 7	167,676	+ 5
South Atlantic	151,683	- 3	901,318	+ 9	147,152	-12	832,806	- 3
East South Central	60,898	- 2	357,870	+14	58,683	- 4	328,187	+ 4
West South Central	70,504	- 2	447,605	+11	64,327	- 9	370,622	- 4
Mountain	25,177	+ 9	142,517	+22	24,141	+ 9	134,986	+19
Pacific	40,523	+ 5	151,602	- 3	34,400	- 5	175,729	(2)
Structural clay tile (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	60,162	-22	391,675	- 5	59,471	-23	339,616	-18
Middle Atlantic	5,917	-17	39,557	- 1	5,905	-31	30,924	-29
East North Central	6,324	-57	35,724	-46	6,013	-58	32,700	-52
West North Central	9,206	-23	59,570	+ 8	9,601	-23	45,289	-16
South Atlantic	13,766	- 1	72,582	- 4	13,109	(2)	77,523	- 4
East South Central	3,368	-43	23,445	-35	3,541	-41	23,628	-37
West South Central	19,791	-15	147,316	+13	18,804	-10	116,425	- 1
Mountain & Pacific	1,790	+56	13,481	+30	2,498	+42	13,127	+28
Vitrified clay sewer pipe (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	164,378	- 8	894,045	- 2	183,461	- 7	883,984	+ 1
Middle Atlantic	19,463	- 2	87,100	-10	21,510	- 6	80,133	- 9
East North Central	65,707	-13	329,282	- 9	74,799	-14	329,624	- 7
West North Central	14,869	-17	98,575	- 1	17,210	-15	92,536	- 4
South Atlantic	14,941	+ 8	82,355	+14	16,750	+18	92,734	+27
E. & W. South Central	22,536	- 5	143,650	+15	23,274	+ 3	136,208	+18
Mountain	4,237	+27	23,858	+17	4,372	+25	22,948	+20
Pacific	22,625	- 8	129,225	- 4	25,546	- 5	129,801	+ 1

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSD) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. ² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 35.—Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners ¹ (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1953.....	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954.....	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
1955.....	2,598	108	28,512	4,834	1,348	191	558	70	537
12 months ending:									
March 1956.....	2,659	--	28,504	--	1,347	--	536	--	508
April 1956.....	2,657	--	28,369	--	1,340	--	528	--	500
May 1956.....	2,671	--	28,214	--	1,334	--	523	--	492
June 1956.....	2,693	--	(2)	--	1,321	--	521	--	490
1955: June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	37	85	41
July.....	207	91	1,865	7,520	108	194	38	87	44
August	260	69	3,615	6,378	164	187	57	85	60
September.....	224	93	3,326	5,845	164	187	65	71	68
October.....	219	91	3,115	5,234	150	172	72	61	62
November	185	102	2,779	4,666	121	177	54	61	39
December	175	108	1,773	4,834	80	191	38	70	27
1956: January.....	224	109	2,018	4,866	87	212	33	86	32
February	246	104	2,236	5,013	79	226	29	87	29
March	255	96	1,802	5,814	85	255	34	92	27
April	230	102	1,900	6,082	85	263	32	91	31
May.....	231	107	1,577	6,912	94	275	34	93	32
June	237	114	(2)	(2)	104	267	35	88	39
Percent change									
June, 1955-56	+10	+3	--	--	-11	+25	-5	+4	-5
First 6 mos., 1955-56.....	+7	--	--	--	-5	--	-16	--	-19

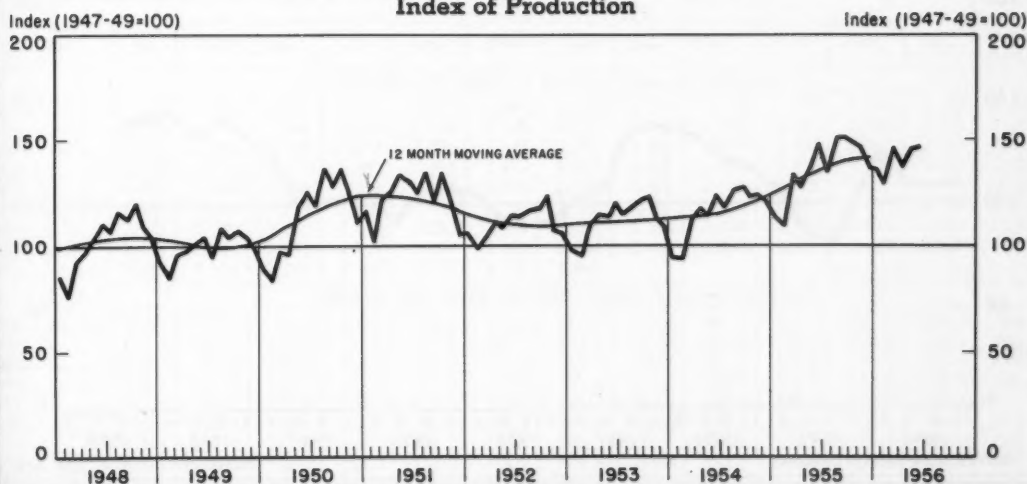
Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. * As of end of period.

¹ Sold separately.² Not yet available.

Chart 13.

Clay Construction Products

Index of Production



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D.56-10-Q

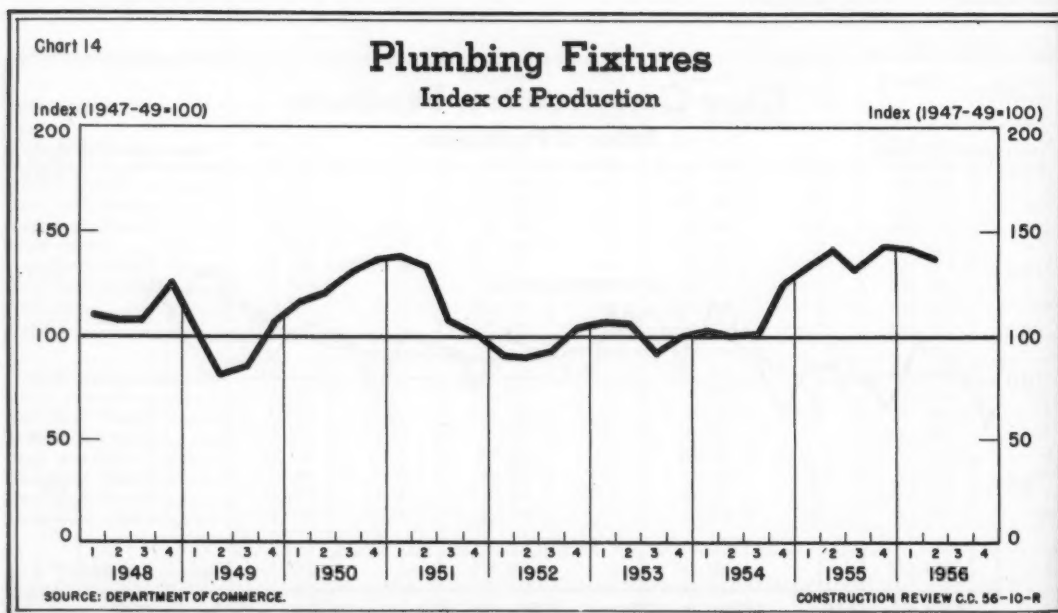
CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 36.—Plumbing Fixtures: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Type of fixture	Number of fixtures						Percent change,		
	2d quarter 1956			2d quarter 1955			2d quarter 1955-56		
	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production	Shipments	Stocks*
Lavatories	1,033,931	979,705	635,838	1,015,687	997,664	339,979	+ 2	- 2	+87
Vitreous china	553,365	554,233	232,818	516,372	520,332	147,328	+ 7	+ 7	+58
Cast-iron	381,735	346,152	322,460	424,315	396,878	146,220	-10	-13	+121
Steel	98,831	79,320	80,560	75,000	80,454	46,431	+32	- 1	+74
Water closets	1,255,317	1,209,797	318,201	1,152,493	1,154,236	157,828	+ 9	+ 5	+102
Syphon jet	154,160	156,643	56,169	131,068	131,224	41,748	+18	+19	+35
Washdown	528,163	517,412	112,208	511,390	513,667	61,318	+ 3	+ 1	+83
Reverse trap	572,994	535,742	149,824	510,035	509,345	54,762	+12	+ 5	+174
Flush tanks, vitreous china	1,058,001	1,012,369	291,787	1,034,933	1,032,043	195,144	+ 2	- 2	+50
Urinals, vitreous china	43,715	46,642	15,656	38,368	36,873	13,112	+14	+26	+19
Kitchen sinks	592,622	576,132	498,801	703,749	673,646	373,047	-16	-14	+34
Cast-iron	267,600	238,825	219,430	304,051	279,400	144,104	-12	-15	+52
Steel	323,883	336,493	278,254	398,892	393,540	227,968	-19	-14	+22
Other metals and glazed earthenware ¹	1,139	814	1,117	806	706	975	+41	+15	+15
Wash sinks	5,350	5,603	4,456	4,922	4,393	5,634	+ 9	+28	-21
Service sinks	29,608	25,257	21,245	23,818	24,391	12,234	+24	+ 4	+74
Sink and laundry tray comb.	22,891	27,459	27,825	38,857	38,107	22,843	-41	-28	+22
Laundry trays	36,324	31,266	25,145	42,051	40,044	17,765	-14	-22	+42
Bathtubs	573,217	543,198	383,556	634,922	626,726	202,191	-10	-13	+90
Cast-iron	420,671	392,518	305,042	466,562	452,259	153,682	-10	-13	+98
Steel	152,546	150,680	78,514	168,360	174,467	48,509	- 9	-14	+62
Shower stalls, including receptors ..	67,212	60,202	22,067	54,679	58,738	7,232	+23	+ 2	+205

Source: Department of Commerce.

* At end of period.

¹ Includes vitreous china.

Part VII--Employment

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Table 37.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors							Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (in thousands)											
Year: 1948.....	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949.....	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950.....	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951.....	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952.....	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953.....	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954.....	2,593.0	2,090.0	885.7	1,204.0	295.7	143.8	164.4	600.1	503.0	217.4	285.6
1955.....	2,780.0	2,279.0	937.7	1,341.6	318.3	165.6	169.1	688.6	501.0	222.9	278.2
1955: Aug.	3,032.0	2,454.0	1,027.5	1,426.3	328.4	190.4	171.6	735.9	578.0	272.3	305.8
Sept.	3,088.0	2,502.0	1,047.4	1,454.7	338.9	192.9	172.9	750.0	586.0	277.9	308.1
Oct.	3,094.0	2,501.0	1,031.7	1,469.2	344.1	188.8	176.1	760.2	593.0	279.5	313.1
Nov.	3,031.0	2,458.0	1,009.3	1,448.3	340.7	183.8	177.8	746.0	573.0	266.2	306.9
Dec.	2,921.0	2,398.0	988.4	1,409.8	331.1	176.9	177.0	724.8	523.0	235.7	287.5
1956: Jan.	2,756.0	2,306.0	941.6	1,364.1	322.0	161.1	175.0	706.0	450.0	187.3	262.4
Feb.	2,588.0	2,185.0	880.0	1,304.8	311.9	142.5	172.2	678.2	403.0	156.5	246.3
Mar.	2,588.0	2,189.0	878.4	1,310.7	310.2	144.3	170.6	685.6	399.0	153.2	245.6
Apr.	2,669.0	2,244.0	914.2	1,330.1	313.5	147.3	170.7	698.6	425.0	168.0	256.8
May	2,853.0	2,376.0	981.8	1,394.4	317.3	166.2	173.7	737.2	477.0	204.5	272.4
June	3,040.0	2,501.0	1,038.4	1,462.4	327.4	185.6	179.1	770.3	539.0	242.1	296.7
July	3,260.0	2,667.0	1,128.4	1,538.7	341.1	204.8	186.8	806.0	593.0	272.8	319.7
	*3,296.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Percent change											
May-June 1956..	+ 7.2	+ 6.6	+ 8.7	+ 5.2	+4.2	+10.3	+ 4.3	+ 4.6	+10.0	+12.7	+7.8
June, 1955-56 ..	+11.3	+12.6	+15.1	+10.8	+6.7	+12.8	+10.7	+12.2	+ 5.9	+ 4.0	+7.5

Source: Department of Labor.

* Percent change: June-July 1956--+1.1; July 1955-56--+8.7.

¹ Not yet available.

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Number of Employees and Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (in thousands, seasonally adjusted)													
1948.....	2,120	2,015	2,065	2,105	2,136	2,184	2,199	2,212	2,220	2,229	2,249	2,251	2,169
1949.....	2,222	2,171	2,146	2,128	2,124	2,130	2,157	2,176	2,197	2,192	2,190	2,141	2,165
1950.....	2,119	2,101	2,105	2,173	2,236	2,337	2,405	2,451	2,473	2,502	2,517	2,471	2,333
1951.....	2,526	2,521	2,569	2,593	2,596	2,613	2,633	2,641	2,630	2,653	2,606	2,620	2,603
1952.....	2,599	2,624	2,588	2,586	2,597	2,645	2,658	2,672	2,682	2,648	2,650	2,632	2,634
1953.....	2,647	2,669	2,653	2,638	2,613	2,598	2,588	2,596	2,612	2,632	2,623	2,626	2,622
1954.....	2,533	2,583	2,600	2,614	2,603	2,599	2,591	2,594	2,586	2,584	2,618	2,615	2,593
1955.....	2,624	2,618	2,703	2,752	2,804	2,815	2,834	2,833	2,852	2,833	2,822	2,827	2,780
1956.....	2,876	2,924	2,966	3,003	3,053	3,135	3,080						
INDEXES (1947-49=100) OF EMPLOYMENT (seasonally adjusted) ¹													
1948.....	100.7	95.7	98.1	100.0	101.5	103.8	104.5	105.1	105.5	105.9	106.8	106.9	103.0
1949.....	105.6	103.1	101.9	101.1	100.9	101.2	102.5	103.4	104.4	104.1	104.0	101.7	102.9
1950.....	100.7	99.8	100.0	103.2	106.2	111.0	114.3	116.4	117.5	118.9	119.6	117.4	110.8
1951.....	120.0	119.8	122.0	123.2	123.3	124.1	125.1	125.5	124.9	126.0	123.8	124.5	123.7
1952.....	123.5	124.7	122.9	122.9	123.4	125.7	126.3	126.9	127.4	125.8	125.9	125.0	125.1
1953.....	125.7	126.8	126.0	125.3	124.1	123.4	122.9	123.3	124.1	125.0	124.6	124.8	124.6
1954.....	120.3	122.7	123.5	124.2	123.7	123.5	123.1	123.2	122.9	122.8	124.4	124.2	123.2
1955.....	124.7	124.4	128.4	130.7	133.2	133.7	134.6	134.6	135.5	134.6	134.1	134.3	132.1
1956.....	136.6	138.9	140.9	142.7	145.1	148.9	146.3						

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the Federal Reserve Board.

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Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, June 1955-56
	1955		1956						1953	1954	1955	
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	June	June	June	
Alabama	33.9	33.2	32.0	32.5	32.8	34.4	35.3	36.6	34.8	32.8	34.7	+ 5
Arizona	19.9	19.1	18.2	17.7	17.7	17.9	18.3	18.7	17.5	16.9	19.0	- 2
Arkansas	16.1	15.3	14.5	12.4	12.6	12.7	13.3	13.9	20.7	15.8	16.2	-14
California	267.5	258.0	257.7	273.0	281.5	288.3	296.8	304.1	255.1	253.5	277.7	+10
Colorado	28.8	28.0	26.9	25.5	26.2	28.9	29.8	32.2	28.9	27.7	32.1	(1)
Connecticut ²	47.5	46.6	41.7	40.3	40.8	42.5	46.6	48.7	41.5	43.2	47.7	+ 2
Delaware ³	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia ..	19.1	18.7	18.1	18.2	18.4	18.7	19.3	19.6	19.1	17.7	18.2	+ 8
Florida	93.4	92.1	88.3	87.3	86.7	86.3	89.3	91.0	80.4	80.0	90.8	(1)
Georgia	51.1	49.5	49.3	50.6	51.4	53.8	55.7	58.9	53.2	50.1	53.7	+10
Idaho	8.6	7.9	7.2	6.7	7.5	8.5	9.9	10.7	9.9	9.6	10.0	+ 7
Illinois	177.0	167.4	161.5	157.3	165.1	177.8	187.0	199.6	173.1	171.2	180.3	+11
Indiana	72.1	64.8	62.6	61.2	62.5	69.4	74.8	80.1	66.9	59.6	70.3	+14
Iowa	31.9	27.0	25.9	25.1	26.4	31.9	34.2	37.5	33.0	37.8	36.5	+ 3
Kansas	41.1	36.3	34.7	32.2	37.4	40.0	42.5	44.0	33.3	40.6	40.7	+ 8
Kentucky ³	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana	55.5	56.1	55.9	54.8	56.1	57.6	56.9	56.6	58.0	55.5	50.1	+13
Maine	13.2	10.8	9.6	9.0	8.8	9.7	13.2	15.7	13.0	15.3	15.5	+ 1
Maryland	70.5	67.7	64.0	63.5	65.0	69.7	70.7	72.0	61.8	59.7	67.4	+ 7
Massachusetts	88.5	80.4	71.6	71.0	73.2	80.6	90.8	97.3	76.2	73.5	83.6	+16
Michigan	120.9	111.9	105.3	103.9	102.0	107.2	112.2	118.7	103.8	125.0	117.1	+ 1
Minnesota	59.5	51.1	46.3	43.6	42.5	47.0	56.5	63.3	52.9	54.0	61.4	+ 3
Mississippi	17.6	16.9	14.8	12.8	13.6	14.4	15.5	15.7	21.0	16.4	18.0	-13
Missouri	75.3	68.9	63.9	61.6	67.7	69.2	71.0	73.7	47.5	70.1	80.2	- 8
Montana	10.6	9.0	8.2	7.5	8.0	10.3	12.4	13.4	10.3	11.6	12.6	+ 6
Nebraska	26.4	21.8	21.2	20.0	21.5	24.3	26.2	28.1	22.5	24.0	26.0	+ 8
Nevada	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.3	7.7	7.7	8.5	8.4	8.2	9.5	9.7	-13
New Hampshire	9.9	8.7	7.8	7.0	7.1	8.2	10.5	11.2	7.4	9.1	10.4	+ 8
New Jersey	115.2	107.4	94.7	97.0	100.1	109.4	111.2	120.7	95.1	101.3	108.1	+12
New Mexico	15.0	14.3	13.5	13.6	13.8	14.1	13.9	14.7	15.1	13.7	16.1	- 9
New York	248.9	235.1	213.8	209.6	211.5	230.6	248.3	258.7	235.0	244.8	243.0	+ 6
North Carolina	51.5	49.2	47.2	46.8	47.7	48.6	50.3	52.2	54.9	50.3	54.4	- 4
North Dakota	8.1	5.9	5.1	4.9	4.9	7.1	9.8	11.5	10.4	12.5	10.2	+13
Ohio	169.5	156.5	148.0	144.0	147.5	157.2	152.3	173.9	154.3	173.9	167.5	+ 4
Oklahoma	30.5	29.7	29.1	28.7	30.3	30.9	31.9	32.2	34.3	32.1	33.6	- 4
Oregon	23.1	21.8	19.7	19.4	20.7	22.6	24.8	26.8	24.8	24.4	23.8	+13
Pennsylvania	194.6	177.6	157.2	155.8	163.4	178.8	183.9	200.7	182.1	185.2	196.5	+ 2
Rhode Island	17.0	16.2	14.3	14.8	15.2	17.3	18.0	19.1	15.7	15.9	17.5	+ 9
South Carolina	29.0	27.3	26.1	26.9	26.4	27.1	26.9	28.0	52.9	38.8	32.1	-13
South Dakota	7.4	5.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	6.8	8.9	9.6	10.3	12.2	10.2	- 6
Tennessee	45.9	43.5	41.5	40.7	41.8	42.5	43.6	43.7	55.1	54.9	49.0	-11
Texas	155.9	155.1	154.3	153.4	157.8	157.8	160.2	164.9	174.6	152.6	167.2	- 1
Utah ⁴	15.5	13.4	12.5	11.4	13.0	14.8	15.5	16.1	10.4	12.3	16.7	- 4
Vermont	5.0	4.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.6	5.2	4.4	4.7	5.0	+ 4
Virginia	64.5	61.7	60.2	61.1	63.5	66.4	69.5	71.7	63.7	57.9	64.5	+11
Washington	44.2	42.6	39.3	38.4	40.9	43.6	47.0	49.5	50.5	53.8	51.0	- 3
West Virginia	20.3	19.2	17.7	18.5	18.0	19.4	21.1	22.8	22.4	20.4	19.2	+19
Wisconsin	64.4	59.6	56.5	55.3	54.4	57.3	64.7	70.4	56.3	52.9	62.6	+12
Wyoming	7.0	5.8	5.0	4.7	5.1	6.6	7.4	8.2	7.0	7.4	8.0	+ 3

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.² Includes a small number of employees in mining.³ Not available.⁴ Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.

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Table 40.—Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, June 1955-56
	1955		1956						1953	1954	1955	
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	June	June	June	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N. Y. ..	7.3	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.9	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.4	- 1
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	6.0	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.2	6.0	-15
Atlanta, Ga.	20.3	19.5	19.1	19.6	19.6	20.3	21.0	21.6	16.2	17.6	19.6	+10
Baltimore, Md.	45.8	44.9	42.5	42.0	43.2	46.1	46.6	47.1	38.4	37.8	42.6	+11
Baton Rouge, La.	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.6	(1)	5.9	5.6	+18
Binghamton, N. Y.	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.0	+ 3
Birmingham, Ala.	11.5	11.1	10.5	10.3	10.4	11.1	11.9	12.2	11.2	10.4	11.6	+ 5
Boise, Idaho	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.3	1.7	1.5	+13
Boston, Mass.	50.4	46.8	42.1	41.8	43.1	47.0	53.1	57.2	45.4	40.3	47.6	+20
Bridgeport, Conn. ²	5.7	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.3	5.6	6.0	5.1	5.5	5.8	+ 3
Buffalo, N. Y.	21.9	20.1	18.3	16.9	16.8	19.1	21.9	23.5	20.1	20.3	21.5	+ 9
Casper, Wyo. ....	.9	.7	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.2	1.3	.9	1.5	1.1	+18
Charleston, S. C.	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.1	4.4	3.4	2.8	+11
Charleston, W. Va.	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.9	7.4	6.4	3.9	0
Charlotte, N. C.	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.2	6.5	5.6	- 4
Chattanooga, Tenn.	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.5	5.3	4.4	5.0	-30
Chicago, Ill.	122.6	117.1	114.0	112.6	117.0	125.8	132.0	138.3	113.9	111.0	121.7	+14
Denver, Colo.	18.7	18.0	16.9	16.3	16.9	19.3	19.9	21.3	18.7	18.0	20.4	+ 4
Des Moines, Iowa	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.4	5.2	5.7	6.2	3.0	5.8	5.6	+11
Detroit, Mich.	67.4	63.0	60.2	59.9	57.4	57.0	59.6	61.3	54.4	70.3	62.9	- 3
Duluth, Minn.	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.0	+25
Evansville, Ind.	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	3.1	3.8	3.7	--
Fargo, N. D.	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.1	+10
Fort Wayne, Ind.	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.0	+ 7
Great Falls, Mont.	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.8	+ 6
Harrisburg, Pa.	8.2	7.4	6.5	6.1	6.4	7.7	6.0	10.2	6.6	7.0	8.4	+21
Hartford, Conn. ²	9.6	9.2	8.4	8.0	8.3	9.0	10.3	10.7	9.2	9.7	9.5	+13
Indianapolis, Ind.	13.4	12.3	11.5	11.1	11.5	12.3	13.3	14.0	13.1	13.2	14.5	- 3
Jackson, Miss.	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.3	(1)	(1)	5.1	-16
Jacksonville, Fla.	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	9.0	9.4	8.4	10.3	8.5	+11
Kansas City, Mo.	20.7	19.6	19.5	19.0	19.3	19.7	20.0	20.4	12.6	22.6	21.4	- 5
Knoxville, Tenn.	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.4	6.1	11.5	14.7	10.7	-43
Lewiston, Maine	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.4	+ 7
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	6.1	5.5	5.6	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	4.9	5.9	- 7
Los Angeles, Calif.	115.3	112.4	122.7	128.5	133.2	132.7	135.5	138.4	122.4	118.1	128.6	+ 8
Louisville, Ky.	13.7	13.0	11.2	11.0	11.6	12.3	13.7	14.2	(1)	16.8	14.2	0
Manchester, N. H.	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.4	1.8	2.2	+ 5
Memphis, Tenn.	12.4	12.1	11.5	10.7	11.1	11.2	11.7	11.8	10.5	10.2	12.0	- 2
Miami, Fla.	25.9	24.2	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.0	22.4	23.7	18.7	20.1	24.2	- 2
Milwaukee, Wis.	23.3	22.4	21.5	21.3	20.9	21.8	23.3	24.8	(1)	18.7	22.0	+13
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	28.7	26.0	24.6	24.1	24.7	27.9	30.5	31.7	29.2	22.1	29.5	+ 7
Mobile, Ala.	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.7	5.4	4.5	4.6	+ 2
Nashville, Tenn.	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.8	8.3	8.4	7.4	9.9	7.1	7.6	- 3
New Bedford, Mass.	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.8	+ 6
New Britain, Conn. ²	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	+ 8
New Haven, Conn. ²	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.5	6.8	5.8	6.3	6.3	+ 8
New Orleans, La.	16.2	15.7	15.9	15.2	15.1	15.3	15.2	13.3	18.6	21.4	16.6	-20
New York-Northeastern N. Jersey: ..	226.3	220.5	199.3	199.9	206.1	216.6	227.2	237.9	(1)	215.4	224.0	+ 6
Newark-Jersey City, N. J.	34.7	32.6	29.1	28.3	28.7	31.0	33.7	(1)	29.6	30.6	33.2	--
Paterson, N. J.	22.6	20.9	18.8	19.4	19.6	21.5	20.2	26.3	(1)	22.0	21.6	+22
Perth Amboy, N. J.	6.9	7.1	6.0	6.4	6.6	7.3	7.3	8.0	(1)	6.3	6.6	+21
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N. Y.	29.7	28.6	24.4	25.3	27.3	27.5	31.2	31.4	29.2	29.8	32.3	- 3
New York, N. Y.	112.2	112.7	106.0	106.7	109.9	113.4	117.5	118.9	105.5	108.6	110.5	+ 8
Westchester County, N. Y.	17.8	16.2	13.2	12.3	12.5	14.3	15.4	16.9	(1)	16.3	17.6	- 4

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 40.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, June 1955-56
	1955		1956						1953	1954	1955	
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	June	June	June	
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.0	10.3	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.9	11.5	12.2	12.7	11.9	11.0	+11
Oklahoma City, Okla.	10.2	10.0	9.8	9.7	10.4	10.7	10.6	11.1	9.7	9.6	11.3	- 2
Omaha, Nebr.	7.9	7.1	7.0	6.5	6.7	7.3	7.8	(1)	8.2	9.2	6.8	--
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.6	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.9	8.7	7.9	10.0	- 1
Pittsburgh, Pa.	45.2	41.8	39.2	39.5	41.4	45.3	46.0	47.8	41.9	36.8	43.8	+ 9
Portland, Maine	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.8	3.5	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.9	+ 5
Portland, Oreg.	13.4	13.0	11.8	11.1	12.0	12.5	13.3	14.6	13.5	12.9	12.9	+13
Providence, R. I.	15.1	14.4	12.7	13.1	13.5	15.3	16.0	16.9	13.9	14.1	15.5	+ 9
Racine, Wis.	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	(1)	1.9	2.2	+14
Reno, Nev.	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.3	2.3	2.2	+ 9
Richmond, Va.	11.4	11.1	10.5	11.0	11.3	12.0	12.4	12.8	10.4	9.6	11.2	+14
Rochester, N. Y.	10.1	9.3	8.5	8.1	8.3	9.0	9.2	10.8	8.9	9.8	8.9	+21
Rockford, Ill. ²	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	4.1	4.3	4.6	3.2	3.4	4.0	+15
St. Louis, Mo.	36.3	33.8	32.1	30.5	32.3	33.6	33.9	35.4	(1)	43.6	37.5	- 6
Salt Lake City, Utah ³	9.0	8.2	7.8	7.1	8.0	8.8	8.9	9.5	5.6	7.1	9.9	- 4
San Diego, Calif.	12.3	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.9	13.3	13.5	13.8	14.7	12.2	12.3	+12
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	63.7	60.1	54.2	58.4	59.1	61.1	62.2	63.2	55.5	57.2	61.2	+ 3
San Jose, Calif.	10.5	9.7	9.0	9.7	10.1	10.8	11.2	11.6	8.0	9.7	10.4	+12
Savannah, Ga.	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.3	2.8	3.8	- 5
Seattle, Wash.	14.3	13.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	14.2	15.2	15.7	13.2	13.7	15.5	+ 1
Sioux Falls, S. D.	2.1	2.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.0	(1)	(1)	2.1	- 5
South Bend, Ind.	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.7	- 3
Spokane, Wash.	4.3	3.5	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.8	4.7	5.5	4.3	5.2	5.1	+ 8
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	6.5	5.7	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.6	6.6	6.9	4.6	4.9	5.4	+28
Stamford, Conn. ²	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.3	4.0	- 3
Syracuse, N. Y.	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.6	7.1	7.8	6.5	+17
Tacoma, Wash.	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.8	3.9	4.3	- 7
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	13.6	13.9	14.1	13.6	14.1	14.0	14.1	14.3	12.3	12.2	13.0	+10
Topeka, Kans.	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.8	4.0	4.2	3.0	2.7	3.6	+17
Trenton, N. J.	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1	(1)	4.2	3.8	+ 8
Tucson, Ariz.	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.5	4.3	3.7	4.4	+25
Tulsa, Okla.	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.3	8.4	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.2	9.0	- 4
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.8	3.3	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.7	3.1	+35
Washington, D. C.	47.3	45.2	43.0	43.1	43.8	45.5	46.5	46.9	39.5	38.9	44.8	+ 5
Waterbury, Conn. ²	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	0
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va.	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.1	4.0	4.3	+ 9
Wichita, Kans.	7.9	6.9	6.5	6.1	6.6	6.9	7.4	7.7	7.3	7.0	8.4	- 8
Worcester, Mass.	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.1	+16

Source: Department of Labor.
not strictly comparable with previously published data.

¹ Not available.

² Includes a small number of employees in mining.

³ Revised series;

Table 41.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Aggregate Weekly Man-Hours

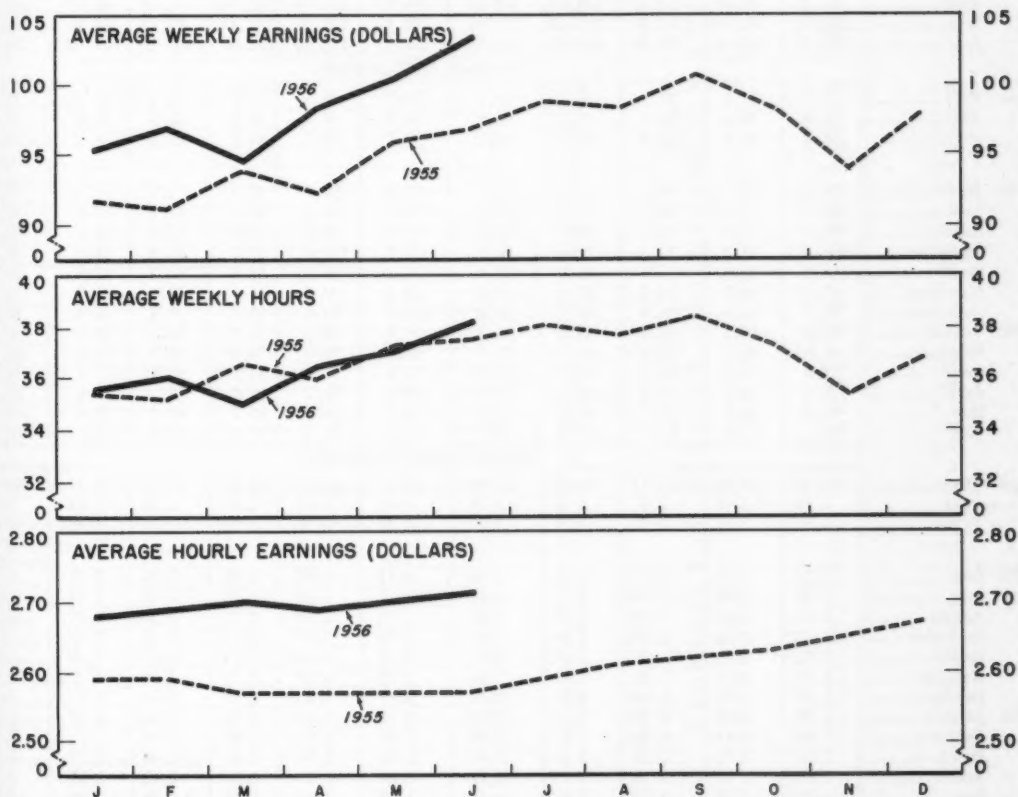
(1947-49=100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
1948.....	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949.....	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950.....	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951.....	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952.....	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953.....	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954.....	95.5	102.8	106.4	113.5	120.3	128.0	131.4	134.0	128.6	128.6	123.3	114.4	118.9
1955.....	101.4	98.6	108.4	115.5	129.3	136.5	144.1	145.1	148.5	140.8	128.2	124.3	126.7
1956.....	112.0	113.0	114.0	128.1	140.0	154.9							

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 15.

Hours and Earnings of Workers In Contract Construction



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Table 42.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	\$91.61	\$91.76	\$87.75	\$94.79	\$98.30	\$87.10	\$111.61	\$91.04	\$90.27	\$85.28	\$93.85
1954.....	93.98	94.12	89.41	97.38	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1955.....	95.94	96.03	90.22	100.83	106.68	94.38	116.82	96.21	94.87	91.05	98.50
1955: June	96.63	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.17	93.93	98.55
July.....	98.68	98.95	92.00	103.60	108.39	97.02	118.31	100.64	99.36	97.22	101.18
August	98.14	97.99	92.23	102.03	107.34	96.72	118.60	97.73	99.01	96.75	101.15
September.....	100.61	100.23	93.61	105.28	109.80	99.25	120.90	101.28	102.29	102.13	102.75
October.....	98.10	98.01	91.55	102.76	108.96	97.30	121.30	97.54	99.36	96.90	101.40
November.....	93.81	94.04	88.24	98.28	105.28	91.58	117.43	92.89	92.64	89.21	95.76
December.....	97.99	98.19	92.11	102.93	109.42	96.26	122.00	97.23	94.95	87.47	101.12
1956: January.....	95.41	96.17	88.75	101.10	109.16	94.24	120.26	94.58	93.17	85.19	98.43
February.....	96.84	97.27	90.30	102.03	107.82	94.92	122.36	96.88	94.43	86.14	99.85
March	94.50	95.15	87.98	99.81	108.58	95.26	120.12	93.01	91.88	84.90	96.38
April.....	98.19	99.00	92.20	103.82	108.00	95.57	120.74	100.04	94.86	88.65	100.10
May.....	100.44	100.74	93.96	105.62	111.45	99.62	122.22	101.44	99.31	94.16	103.86
June	103.25	103.42	96.68	108.38	113.39	101.24	123.95	105.08	104.23	101.82	106.08
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1953.....	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954.....	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.2	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1955.....	36.9	36.1	35.8	35.4	38.1	34.7	39.2	35.5	40.2	41.2	39.4
1955: June	37.6	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.1	42.5	39.9
July.....	38.1	37.2	36.8	37.4	38.3	35.8	39.7	37.0	42.1	43.4	40.8
August.....	37.6	36.7	36.6	36.7	38.2	35.3	39.8	35.8	41.6	43.0	40.3
September.....	38.4	37.4	37.0	37.6	38.8	35.7	39.9	37.1	42.8	44.6	41.1
October.....	37.3	36.3	35.9	36.7	38.5	35.0	39.9	35.6	41.4	42.5	40.4
November	35.4	34.7	34.2	35.1	37.2	33.3	38.5	33.9	38.6	39.3	38.0
December.....	36.7	36.1	35.7	36.5	38.8	34.5	40.0	35.1	39.4	39.4	39.5
1956: January.....	35.6	35.1	34.4	35.6	38.3	33.9	39.3	33.9	38.5	38.9	38.3
February.....	36.0	35.5	35.0	35.8	37.7	33.9	39.6	34.6	38.7	38.8	38.7
March	35.0	34.6	34.1	34.9	37.7	33.9	39.0	33.1	37.5	37.4	37.5
April.....	36.5	36.0	35.6	36.3	37.5	34.6	39.2	35.6	39.2	39.4	39.1
May.....	37.2	36.5	36.0	36.8	38.3	35.2	39.3	36.1	40.7	41.3	40.1
June	38.1	37.2	36.9	37.5	38.7	35.9	39.6	37.0	42.2	43.7	40.8
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	\$2.43	\$2.48	\$2.34	\$2.59	\$2.58	\$2.51	\$2.84	\$2.55	\$2.24	\$2.07	\$2.37
1954.....	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.69	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1955.....	2.60	2.66	2.52	2.77	2.80	2.72	2.98	2.71	2.36	2.21	2.50
1955: June	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July.....	2.59	2.66	2.50	2.77	2.83	2.71	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.48
August	2.61	2.67	2.52	2.78	2.81	2.74	2.98	2.73	2.38	2.25	2.51
September.....	2.62	2.68	2.53	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.03	2.73	2.39	2.29	2.50
October.....	2.63	2.70	2.55	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.04	2.74	2.40	2.28	2.51
November	2.65	2.71	2.58	2.80	2.83	2.75	3.05	2.74	2.40	2.27	2.52
December.....	2.67	2.72	2.58	2.82	2.82	2.79	3.05	2.77	2.41	2.22	2.56
1956: January.....	2.68	2.74	2.58	2.84	2.85	2.78	3.06	2.79	2.42	2.19	2.57
February.....	2.69	2.74	2.58	2.85	2.86	2.80	3.09	2.80	2.44	2.22	2.58
March	2.70	2.75	2.58	2.86	2.88	2.81	3.08	2.81	2.45	2.27	2.57
April.....	2.69	2.75	2.59	2.86	2.88	2.82	3.08	2.81	2.42	2.25	2.56
May.....	2.70	2.76	2.61	2.87	2.91	2.83	3.11	2.81	2.44	2.28	2.59
June	2.71	2.78	2.62	2.89	2.93	2.82	3.13	2.84	2.47	2.33	2.60
Percent change, June 1955 to 1956											
Avg. wkly. earnings ..	+6.9	+6.7	+7.3	+6.6	+7.3	+6.1	+7.5	+6.8	+8.4	+8.4	+7.6
Avg. wkly. hours.....	+1.3	+1.4	+1.9	+1.1	+1.8	+2.0	+1.3	+ .8	+2.7	+2.8	+2.3
Avg. hrly. earnings....	+5.4	+5.3	+5.2	+5.5	+5.4	+4.1	+6.1	+6.0	+5.6	+5.4	+5.3

Source: Department of Labor.

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Table 43.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade

State and territory	Number employed as of June 30 ^{1 2}			Percent change, 1955-56
	1954	1955	1956	
Total	85,419	93,050	103,612	+11
Alabama	1,327	1,128	1,387	+23
Alaska	173	247	261	+ 6
Arizona	964	1,145	1,016	-11
Arkansas	524	511	511	0
California	10,774	11,946	14,162	+19
Colorado	918	1,158	1,223	+ 6
Connecticut	2,117	2,239	2,480	+11
Delaware	157	205	247	+20
District of Columbia	1,190	1,212	1,202	- 1
Florida	2,365	2,615	2,798	+ 7
Georgia	2,003	1,987	1,994	(3)
Hawaii	302	283	271	- 4
Idaho	255	272	352	+29
Illinois	6,092	7,356	9,051	+23
Indiana	1,353	1,540	2,149	+40
Iowa	938	933	808	-13
Kansas	502	714	764	+ 7
Kentucky	1,196	1,200	1,300	+ 8
Louisiana	1,714	1,661	1,439	-13
Maine	170	245	281	+15
Maryland	1,344	1,244	1,487	+20
Massachusetts	2,191	2,406	2,548	+ 6
Michigan	3,660	4,571	5,196	+14
Minnesota	2,322	2,449	2,688	+10
Mississippi	401	366	465	+27
Missouri	1,971	2,423	2,995	+24
Montana	482	508	463	- 9
Nebraska	506	532	718	+35
Nevada	209	298	328	+10
New Hampshire	95	117	151	+29
New Jersey	1,941	2,092	2,289	+ 9
New Mexico	404	530	569	+ 7
New York	(4)	(4)	(4)	--
North Carolina	1,610	1,637	1,842	+13
North Dakota	47	100	168	+68
Ohio	6,422	7,083	7,336	+ 4
Oklahoma	746	675	962	+43
Oregon	782	942	1,013	+ 8
Pennsylvania	3,578	3,706	3,906	+ 5
Rhode Island	391	482	542	+12
South Carolina	919	666	819	+23
South Dakota	107	170	237	+39
Tennessee	1,915	1,867	1,981	+ 6
Texas	3,849	4,312	4,989	+16
Utah	618	633	595	- 6
Vermont	96	90	95	+ 6
Virginia	1,234	1,238	1,278	+ 3
Washington	1,765	2,187	2,152	- 2
West Virginia	486	461	570	+24
Wisconsin	2,117	2,273	2,610	+15
Wyoming	204	219	235	+ 7

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 43.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade--Continued

State and territory	Number employed as of June 30, selected trades ²											
	1955						1956					
	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paper-hanger	Plumber and pipe-fitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades ⁵	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paper-hanger	Plumber and pipe-fitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades ⁵
Total	23,750	16,184	4,190	20,483	9,877	11,256	25,707	16,968	4,497	21,374	10,679	15,666
Alabama	377	173	66	185	127	85	324	192	85	194	148	264
Alaska	109	32	12	57	8	0	129	30	15	46	8	2
Arizona	428	270	86	145	84	71	359	176	72	151	85	100
Arkansas	95	57	43	98	30	35	89	46	33	99	37	82
California	4,442	1,248	879	2,317	1,341	768	5,193	1,444	1,053	2,454	1,559	1,076
Colorado	248	136	41	207	210	129	291	135	57	213	229	156
Connecticut	633	255	161	498	240	204	639	295	158	557	286	228
Delaware	40	28	20	47	29	34	51	45	19	49	22	49
Dist. of Col.	175	214	45	277	80	217	144	167	42	311	80	256
Florida	687	856	45	383	231	234	702	869	42	422	258	255
Georgia	295	677	32	371	190	170	301	596	37	348	162	321
Hawaii	71	84	6	64	48	3	78	77	2	52	44	5
Idaho	72	59	17	45	38	26	94	55	36	51	37	60
Illinois	1,389	1,339	347	1,794	612	1,442	1,587	1,474	388	1,966	723	2,374
Indiana	324	213	86	272	236	321	369	349	89	287	226	758
Iowa	278	114	53	207	122	94	253	77	34	205	91	70
Kansas	216	78	46	122	78	132	248	74	61	144	78	123
Kentucky	267	318	43	336	118	95	223	397	50	358	123	100
Louisiana	395	380	52	325	120	201	286	357	56	301	99	199
Maine	20	67	1	75	46	12	23	82	2	95	44	14
Maryland	231	271	44	301	87	269	326	253	49	351	101	357
Massachusetts	439	435	67	686	245	263	468	523	57	766	260	284
Michigan	1,208	639	190	800	657	648	1,391	689	191	753	688	1,053
Minnesota	513	510	140	532	340	246	596	520	157	555	306	327
Mississippi	92	99	0	93	30	28	93	99	0	97	40	103
Missouri	714	311	146	435	370	277	753	371	186	483	385	582
Montana	212	86	37	93	49	19	159	83	23	92	66	24
Nebraska	141	94	21	92	69	75	175	72	19	75	112	217
Nevada	93	103	14	35	48	0	114	100	12	43	56	0
New Hampshire	46	3	0	58	0	0	45	3	0	75	3	14
New Jersey	620	252	23	502	239	332	494	277	25	568	201	570
New Mexico	149	185	31	62	30	15	141	181	17	74	36	23
New York	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
North Carolina	288	465	41	338	209	203	293	505	46	376	260	258
North Dakota	24	20	0	34	0	20	46	22	0	40	1	57
Ohio	1,407	1,044	233	1,934	808	1,008	1,482	1,072	246	1,893	893	1,045
Oklahoma	168	76	15	105	95	54	193	86	15	121	142	142
Oregon	183	250	54	156	170	56	175	278	48	167	189	53
Pennsylvania	795	552	60	1,312	295	481	844	563	61	1,388	327	488
Rhode Island	179	59	20	154	36	23	198	69	23	159	37	23
South Carolina	92	190	5	189	57	113	127	211	5	193	80	174
South Dakota	60	18	13	41	13	10	75	31	17	42	14	42
Tennessee	548	489	79	328	132	151	553	496	80	319	134	244
Texas	1,011	869	291	1,052	344	374	1,160	833	334	1,088	408	717
Utah	232	74	49	102	95	33	196	98	31	106	85	34
Vermont	27	10	1	42	5	2	27	13	2	38	9	4
Virginia	155	339	43	301	170	128	141	326	35	280	174	216
Washington	852	318	119	310	165	165	787	325	115	310	188	182
West Virginia	86	89	17	135	63	23	71	92	16	127	70	142
Wisconsin	468	322	173	709	262	258	572	372	182	735	308	314
Wyoming	93	30	5	36	31	19	74	30	7	35	37	47

Source: Department of Labor.
of less than one-half of 1 percent.
plasterers.

¹Includes data for trades not shown separately.

⁴Data not available.

²Totals include an estimate for New York.

⁵Covers brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and

³Chap

Construction Legislation

47

Housing Act of 1956. (Public Law 1020, approved August 7, 1956.)

Among the major provisions contained in this comprehensive housing law, designed to expand and improve Government-assisted housing programs, are those which:

GENERAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE AUTHORIZATION

(1) Increase the FHA general mortgage insurance authorization by adding \$3,000,000,000 to the amount outstanding on July 1, 1956, thus providing sufficient underwriting authority to meet estimated requirements through June 30, 1957.

SALES HOUSING INSURANCE

(2) Raise the maximum insurable loan-to-value ratios for FHA Sec. 203 mortgages on existing housing to match those applying to the sale of new homes, namely, 95 percent on the first \$9,000 of FHA's appraised value of the home, plus 75 percent for the part in excess of \$9,000. Under previous law, the maximum for existing houses was 90 percent on the first \$9,000. By FHA regulation, however, the maximum insurable loan-to-value ratios have been lowered by 2 percent for both new and existing dwellings, so that at present the minimum downpayment on a home to be occupied by the borrower is 7 percent on the first \$9,000 of appraised value, plus 27 percent of the value above \$9,000. (See Federal Register, Vol. 21, No. 156, August 11, 1956, p. 6013.) The new terms apply only to existing homes approved by FHA for mortgage insurance before the start of construction, unless the dwellings are more than a year old.

(3) Increase from \$7,000 to \$12,000 the maximum loan which can be insured for an individual whose home is damaged or destroyed by disaster.

RENTAL HOUSING INSURANCE

(4) Increase the permissible loan-to-value ratio for FHA Sec. 207 multifamily rental housing loans from 80 percent to 90 percent, and increase loan ceilings to \$2,250 per room or \$8,100 per family unit of less than 4 rooms (former ceiling was \$2,000 and \$7,200 respectively), and up to \$2,700 per room for elevator-type structures or \$8,400 per family unit (former ceiling was \$2,400 and \$7,500 respectively). The FHA Commissioner is authorized to increase per room maximums by an additional \$1,000 in high-cost areas.

REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT LOANS

(5) Extend the FHA Title I home repair and modernization loan program for 3 years, until September 30, 1959.

(6) Authorize the FHA Commissioner to waive the requirement that a new house be occupied for six months before the owner can obtain a Title I loan.

(7) Increase the maximum loan for single-family structures from \$2,500 to \$3,500, and for multifamily structures from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

(8) Authorize the FHA Commissioner, at his discretion, to increase the repayment period for Title I single-family home improvement loans from 3 to 5 years.

(9) Provide a sliding-scale interest rate formula for Title I loans, permitting interest equivalent to 5 percent discount on amounts up to \$2,500 and 4 percent discount on amounts over \$2,500. Under previous law, the amount of discount or interest charges was left to the discretion of the FHA Commissioner.

(According to FHA regulations signed August 8, 1956, Title I loans of more than \$600 may be made for a 5-year term. Owners of newly constructed homes will not be eligible until they have occupied the house for 90 days. For loans of \$600 or less, the maximum repayment period was set at 3 years, with no limitation on occupancy.)

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

(10) Permit a person 60 years of age or over who buys a home for his own occupancy with the proceeds of an FHA-insured mortgage, to borrow the downpayment and settlement costs.

(11) Provide more liberal financing for rental projects specifically designed for elderly people than for other multifamily projects insured under section 207, if the mortgagor is a nonprofit organization, such as a church group, lodge, or union. The mortgage loan can be as high as \$8,100 per family unit or up to 90 percent of replacement cost of the project. This is usually a higher figure than 90 percent of value, which is the new basis for determining the amount of regular Sec. 207 loans.

(12) Direct the HHFA to establish an advisory committee on matters relating to housing for the elderly.

(13) Permit the admission to public housing of a single person 65 years of age or over; make elderly persons eligible on a first-preference basis for admission to public housing units suitable to their needs; waive the requirement that they must come from unsafe and insanitary dwellings or be displaced by Government action; and authorize an increase in the cost ceiling, from \$1,750 to \$2,250 per room, for public housing units specifically designed for elderly persons.

URBAN RENEWAL AND SLUM CLEARANCE

(14) Permit a profit and risk allowance of 10 percent of project costs (excluding land) for builders and sponsors of FHA Sec. 220 urban renewal rehabilitation or new housing projects, except that the FHA Commissioner is authorized to prescribe a lesser percentage if he certifies that a 10 percent allowance is unreasonable.

(15) Permit the FHA Commissioner to increase mortgage limits by as much as \$1,000 per room for garden-type urban renewal projects in high-cost areas. Under previous law, this permissive authority was applicable only to elevator-type structures.

(16) Increase the maximum permissible loan for new housing to relocate families displaced by urban renewal, under section 221, from \$7,600 to \$9,000, and from \$8,600 to \$10,000 in high-cost areas; permit no-downpayment financing by requiring only that the borrower pay \$200 in cash to apply toward closing costs; and increase the maximum loan term from 30 to 40 years.

(17) Provide for payments to individuals, families, and business concerns displaced by urban renewal activities to reimburse them for moving expenses and business losses other than the loss of good will. Payments may not exceed \$100 to an individual or family, and \$2,000 to a business concern.

(18) Increase from \$70,000,000 to \$100,000,000 the aggregate amount of capital grant contracts for slum clearance and urban renewal projects that the Housing and Home Finance Administrator may enter into, without regard to the 10-percent limitation on the expenditure of funds in any one State, in States where more than two-thirds of the maximum capital grants permitted have already been obligated.

(19) Authorize the Housing Administrator to extend urban renewal assistance to areas in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation as the result of a major disaster, without regard to certain limitations imposed upon nondisaster projects, such as compliance with the requirement that the locality have an approved workable program. FHA mortgage insurance under sections 220 and 221 of the National Housing Act also is made available for disaster areas without regard to the workable program requirement, and urban planning grants will be permitted for large cities affected by a major disaster, as well as for smaller communities under 25,000 population.

(20) Increase the urban renewal planning grant authorization under section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

GOVERNMENT SECONDARY MARKET SUPPORT

(21) Reduce the amount of Federal National Mortgage Association stock which sellers of mortgages to FNMA are required to buy, from 3 percent to 2 percent of the unpaid principal of the mortgages purchased or to be purchased. The Association is authorized to adjust this percentage downward, as well as upward, taking into consideration conditions in the mortgage market and the general economy, but the lower limit is 1 percent. Under previous law, only an upward adjustment was permitted.

(22) Revise the method for establishing the price of mortgages to be purchased by FNMA in its secondary market operations. The new criterion for setting prices, which is "within the range of

market prices" (instead of "at the market price") for the particular class of mortgages involved, will permit the Association to raise its purchase price schedule.

(23) Authorize FNMA to make advance commitments to purchase mortgages for its secondary market operations. These "standby" commitments must be issued at prices which are high enough to facilitate advance planning of home construction, but which are sufficiently below the prices offered by the Association for immediate purchase that excessive sales to FNMA under the commitments will be discouraged.

(On August 8, 1956, the Association announced that "standby" commitments will be issued at a uniform purchase price of 92, and will be for a term of one year. Sellers wishing to obtain such commitments will be required to make a nonrefundable cash payment equal to 1 percent of the amount of the mortgages involved.)

(24) Direct FNMA to pay, for a period of one year, not less than 99 percent of par for mortgages purchased in its Special Assistance Functions (e.g., section 213 cooperative mortgages, and section 221 mortgages for relocation housing for persons living in urban renewal areas). FNMA has paid 99 for special assistance mortgages since April 21, 1956. Prior to that, the price was 98 percent of par.

PUBLIC HOUSING

(25) Repeal the proviso in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1953 which prohibits the Public Housing Administration from committing itself to authorize the start of more than 35,000 dwelling units in any one fiscal year.

(26) Authorize new loan and annual contributions contracts for not more than 35,000 additional public housing units after July 31, 1956, and an additional 35,000 on and after July 1, 1957. Each 35,000 increment will be available for contracting for two years from the date of initial authorization.

(27) Restore the requirement that the locality have a "workable program" as a condition to a new contract for additional public housing units.

(28) Increase from 10 percent to 15 percent the maximum portion of annual contributions and grant funds for public housing which may be expended within any one State.

COOPERATIVE HOUSING

(29) Authorize a new financing device under section 213 of the National Housing Act to permit a sponsor of a cooperative to obtain a commitment of a loan up to 85 percent of replacement cost and proceed with construction before the prospective cooperative has been formed. The sponsor must certify intent to sell to a cooperative upon completion. Until he sells the project, he will be regulated by FHA as to rents, capital structure, and rate of return. If the sponsor fails to sell to a cooperative, he will become ineligible for any additional FHA-insurance loans under this section.

(30) Reduce from 65 percent to 50 percent the proportion of veterans required to make a cooperative eligible for the more liberal terms accorded a veteran cooperative, and permit World War I veterans to be counted in determining the percentage of veteran cooperators.

(31) Give discretionary authority to the Federal Housing Commissioner to increase the dollar limitations on FHA-insured cooperatives by as much as \$1,000 per room in high-cost areas.

MILITARY HOUSING

(32) Extend the armed services mortgage insurance program under title VIII of the National Housing Act until June 30, 1958; increase the FHA insurance authorization for this program from \$1,363,500,000 to \$2,300,000,000; and increase the average unit cost of military housing from \$13,000 to \$16,500, provided that amount includes the cost of equipment built into the houses.

(33) Require the Defense Department, in connection with the construction of a new military housing project, to acquire any Wherry Act project at or near the military installation under the same acquisition formula that is provided in the Military Construction Act of 1956 (see P.L. 968, below). If the parties cannot agree upon the terms for acquisition, provision is made for condemnation proceedings. A \$50,000,000 revolving fund is authorized for the purchase of Wherry Act projects, and can be used also for meeting debt service, alterations, and improvements.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

COLLEGE HOUSING

- (34) Increase the revolving fund for college housing loans from \$500,000,000 to \$750,000,000.

FARM HOUSING

(35) Continue for 5 years, until June 30, 1961, the program of loans, contributions, and grants for farm housing and farm structures, authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949; and authorize \$450,000,000 for direct farm-housing loans, \$10,000,000 for contributions by the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent defaults in payments on loans for potentially adequate farms, and \$50,000,000 for grants and loans for minor improvements and repairs to farm houses and building, and to encourage family size farms.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION DIRECT-LOAN PROGRAM

(36) Extend the direct home-loan authority of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs under title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 for 1 year, until June 30, 1958. A 1-year extension of the Veterans Administration home-loan-guaranty program was provided for in Public Law 898, 84th Congress (see below).

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

(37) Revive and extend until June 30, 1958, the authority of the Housing Administrator to make hospital construction loans, grants, or other payments under the Defense Housing and Community Facilities and Services Act of 1951, in cases where loans, grants, or payments were denied solely because of the unavailability of funds. The sum of \$5,000,000 is authorized for this purpose for each of the fiscal years 1957 and 1958.

FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

(38) Amend section 5(c) of the Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933 to permit Federal savings and loan associations to increase their maximum permissible home-improvement loan from \$2,500 to \$3,500, and to permit them to increase from 15 percent to 20 percent the proportion of their assets that may be loaned on property located beyond 50 miles from the association.

Health Research Facilities Act of 1956. (Public Law 835, approved July 30, 1956.)

This law amends The Public Health Service Act by adding a new "Title VII--Health Research Facilities," which establishes a 3-year program of assistance to non-Federal public and nonprofit institutions for the construction of facilities for research in medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, and public health, and related fundamental and applied sciences.

P.L. 835 authorizes an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, and for each of the two succeeding fiscal years, of \$30,000,000 for construction grants to eligible institutions. (The \$30,000,000 authorized for fiscal year 1957 was appropriated in Public Law 855, 84th Congress, summarized below.) Applications for grants must be made not later than June 30, 1958.

A grant may be made to an applicant only if the application is first recommended for approval by the National Advisory Council of Health Research Facilities (provided for in section 703 of the Act), and is approved by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service upon his determination that: (1) the applicant is competent to engage in the type of research for which the facility is to be constructed; (2) the application contains reasonable assurances that for at least 10 years after construction the facility will be used for the research purposes for which constructed; (3) sufficient funds will be available to meet the non-Federal share of the cost of construction; and (4) the proposed construction will expand the applicant's capacity for research, or is necessary to improve or maintain the quality of his research activities.

The amount of any grant may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of construction of the facility, or, in the case of a multipurpose facility, 50 percent of the proportional part of the facility to be used for research purposes, as determined by the Surgeon General.

Extension of World War II Veterans' Loan-Guaranty Program. (Public Law 898, approved August 1, 1956.)

This law amends title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (which authorizes the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to guarantee loans to veterans for purchase or construction of homes, farms, and business property), as follows:

(1) The termination date of the loan-guaranty program for World War II veterans is extended for 1 year, to July 25, 1958. Provision is made for VA guaranty of loans for which applications are received by July 25, 1958, if the loan is closed on or before July 25, 1959. Under previous law, loans had to be closed by July 25, 1957. (Veterans of the Korean conflict period have until January 31, 1965, to obtain VA-guaranteed loans.)

(2) World War II veterans who lose their homes through no fault on their part, for reasons such as condemnation for public use, or destruction by fire or other natural hazard, now have until January 31, 1965, to obtain a new guaranteed loan. Formerly, their right to reinstate guaranty entitlement was due to expire July 25, 1957.

(3) An eligible veteran still in service, upon receipt of orders for transfer, may dispose of his home, pay off his guaranteed loan, and have his entitlement reinstated. Previously, the home loan entitlement could not be used more than once.

(4) A veteran who sells his home and allows the purchaser to assume his GI loan may be released from liability to the Federal Government, provided the second purchaser qualifies from a credit standpoint and assumes full liability for repayment of the unpaid balance of the loan. In connection with transactions that took place before enactment of P.L. 898, the original veteran purchaser is still responsible for the loan in the event of subsequent foreclosure and payment by VA of a guaranty claim.

(5) The law, as amended, requires a veteran purchaser to certify that he intends to live in the home he is buying with the assistance of a GI loan, both at the time of application and at the time of closing the loan. Under previous law, he had to state his intention as to occupancy only at the time he applied for the loan.

Extension of Hospital Survey and Construction Act, as Amended. (Public Law 911, approved August 2, 1956.)

Title VI of this omnibus health measure, "Health Amendments Act of 1956," extends the hospital and medical facilities survey and construction program (authorized under title VI of the Public Health Service Act) for two years, from its past expiration date of June 30, 1957, to June 30, 1959.

Extension of Federal Aid for School Construction and Operation in Federally Affected Areas. (Public Law 949, approved August 3, 1956.)

This measure extends for 2 years, until June 30, 1959, the program of financial assistance by the Federal Government to local educational agencies for the construction, operation, and maintenance of school facilities in areas affected by Federal activities under the provisions of Public Laws 815 and 874, 81st Congress, as amended.

Title I of P.L. 949 also contains several amendments to Public Law 815 which liberalize the eligibility requirements for school-construction assistance. Among them are those which (1) make eligible for benefits any school providing flight training to members of the Air Force under contractual arrangements with that Department, if the training is provided at an airport owned by a State or political subdivision of the State; (2) permit a school district to continue to count as federally connected for purposes of P.L. 815, children of members of the Armed Forces who are left behind when their parents have been assigned overseas or beyond reasonable commuting distance from the military installation; and (3) reduce, from 10 percent to 7 percent, the amount of increase in nonfederally connected children which would make a local education agency subject to lower Federal payments.

P.L. 949 further amends P.L. 815 to increase from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000 the appropriation authorization under title IV, which applies principally to school districts in or near areas with large Indian populations that have enrolled substantial numbers of children residing on Federal tax-exempt

land, but that have not experienced substantial school population growth in recent years. (In Public Law 855, 84th Congress, \$15,000,000 was appropriated for title-IV assistance (see below).)

Military Construction Act of 1956. (Public Law 968, approved August 3, 1956.)

This law authorizes the appropriation of \$2,122,636,000 for construction at military, naval, and Air Force installations within the United States and at overseas locations, distributed among the services, as follows: Army, \$323,462,000; Navy, \$438,240,000; and Air Force, \$1,360,934,000. It includes authorizations for additional Nike (a supersonic missile designed by the Army) defense facilities, but it does not provide for construction of certain Talos (a Navy-designed weapon) site facilities which had been authorized in an earlier measure (H.R. 9893) that was vetoed by the President.

Section 411 of P.L. 968 extends from \$100,000,000 to \$250,000,000 the authorization for construction or acquisition of family housing in foreign countries with proceeds from sale of surplus agricultural commodities.

Section 420 of this law amends section 404 of the Housing Amendments of 1955 to provide a new formula to be used by the Secretary of Defense in arriving at a just purchase price for the acquisition of Wherry housing projects. The new formula, which is based on the original cost of the project and an allowance for physical depreciation, is designed to make it easier for the Government to purchase Wherry units, since it will afford more compensation to owners or sponsors of projects with substantial vacancy rates than the formula under previous law, which resulted in the payment of fair market value on future income from the project.

Funds for a number of the projects authorized in this law were appropriated in Public Law 814, 84th Congress (see below).

Federal Flood Insurance Act of 1956. (Public Law 1016, approved August 7, 1956.)

This law provides for an experimental program of Federal insurance and related forms of financial protection against flood losses on real and personal property in the United States, its Territories, and possessions.

P.L. 1016 authorizes the Housing and Home Finance Administrator (1) to issue Government insurance policies against property losses due to flood, (2) to reinsure flood loss policies issued by other insurers, and (3) to make contracts with private individuals and business concerns assuring them, in the event of any subsequent flood loss, of a line of credit to assist in restoring or replacing damaged or destroyed property. The Administrator also is authorized to appoint a Commissioner to assist him in carrying out the functions of this Act.

In connection with the direct insurance program, the Administrator is required to set up a schedule of "estimated rates" which would be adequate in his judgment to produce sufficient proceeds to pay all claims for probable losses over a reasonable period of years. The fees actually charged the purchasers of policies, however, shall be not less than 60 percent of such "estimated rates." The balance represents a subsidy which is to be paid by the Federal Government on policies issued up to July 1, 1959. After that date, States wishing to continue protection for their citizens must be prepared to share the subsidy equally with the Federal Government. The face amount of insurance policies issued under the Act cannot exceed \$250,000 per person, and cannot exceed \$10,000 for any dwelling unit, including any structures and personal property connected with it.

No subsidy is involved in the reinsurance program, except for the administrative costs of the Federal Government. The private insurance companies participating in the program will pay a fee to the Federal Government for reinsurance in an amount to be fixed from time to time by the Administrator through a process of negotiation with the companies seeking reinsurance.

The face amount of insurance policies and reinsurance agreements outstanding at any one time is limited to \$3,000,000,000, but this limit may be increased, with the advance approval of the President, by additional amounts, not to exceed \$2,000,000,000, in the aggregate.

The Administrator is authorized to enter into contracts with any person or business concern (excepting State and local governments and agencies thereof) under which he would agree (1) that if

the person suffers a flood loss, the Administrator will guarantee a loan obtained by the persons from a public or private financing institution, or (2) if such a loan is not available on reasonable terms or available only in part, the Administrator will make a direct loan to the persons for the full amount, or the difference between the amount he could borrow elsewhere and the full amount needed to cover the flood loss. Guaranteed and direct loans are limited to the amount of the flood loss, less \$500. The interest rate on loans made or guaranteed shall be that prevailing in the area where the loan is to be used, but may not exceed 4 percent per annum on the unpaid balance. The same per-person and per-dwelling limits are provided for loan contracts as for insurance policies.

The face amount of loan contracts outstanding at any one time shall not exceed \$2,000,000,000. This limit may be increased with the approval of the President by \$500,000,000 in any one fiscal year.

Federal Reserve banks, if designated by the Administrator, may act as fiscal agents of the United States in the guaranteed loan program.

To assure an adequate reserve for the payment of claims, the Administrator is authorized to borrow from the United States Treasury up to \$500,000,000 outstanding at any one time (or more if approved by the President).

Appropriation Acts That Provide for Construction

Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 814, approved July 27, 1956.)

Most of the nearly \$2 billion appropriated in this law for construction purposes is for national defense projects in the United States and at overseas bases, a number of which were authorized in a measure that originally was vetoed by the President, but after amendment by the Congress, became Public Law 968, 84th Congress (see above). The funds included for the military construction program were distributed as follows: Department of the Air Force, \$1,228,000,000; Department of the Navy, \$400,000,000; and Department of the Army, \$202,000,000.

Other major construction items contained in P.L. 814 include:

(1) Central Intelligence Agency, \$49,000,000 for preparation of detailed plans and specifications and construction of a headquarters installation, as authorized by title IV of Public Law 161, 84th Congress (see Construction Review, August 1955, p. 51);

(2) Department of State, \$44,920,000 for the extension and remodeling of the State Department Building, Washington, D. C.;

(3) Department of Agriculture, \$16,250,000 for establishment of animal disease laboratory facilities, including construction and alteration of buildings;

(4) Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads, \$14,325,000 for construction of Jones Point Bridge over the Potomac River, provided the States of Maryland and Virginia consummate agreements for maintenance and operation of the bridge and approaches;

(5) District of Columbia, \$7,922,829 for public building construction projects, including site acquisition and preparation of plans and specifications; and \$5,000,000 for storm and sanitary sewers;

(6) Department of Defense, \$5,450,000 for construction of additional Loran (navigational aid) Stations by the Coast Guard.

Section 310 of P.L. 814 provides that up to \$5,000,000 of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction may be used for the purchase of Wherry housing projects, in accordance with acquisition provisions contained in section 420 of Public Law 968, 84th Congress, and section 512 of Public Law 1020, 84th Congress (see above).

Second Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 855, approved July 31, 1956.)

The following major construction items are provided for in this law:

Department of Commerce. (1) *Civil Aeronautics Administration*, \$35,000,000 for further expansion of the Federal airways system, including additional radar installations and facilities for control of all airspace above 15,000 feet; and (2) *Bureau of Public Roads*, \$800,000,000 for payments to the States of

obligations authorized in various Federal-aid highway acts, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund, newly created under the provisions of the Federal-aid Highway Act of 1956 (see Construction Review, July 1956, pp. 47-49).

Since the trust fund will not be sufficiently large to cover payments coming due to the States during the early months of fiscal year 1957, because of the phasing of tax receipts, funds provided by earlier appropriation acts (see Public Law 604, 84th Congress, in Construction Review, July 1956, p. 51) will be used for this purpose. However, P.L. 855 provides that as soon as sufficient revenues have been accumulated in the trust fund, but no later than June 30, 1957, the fund shall reimburse the Federal-aid highways appropriations for any expenditures made from them after June 30, 1956.

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. (1) *Office of Education*, \$108,500,000 for additional assistance to local educational agencies for construction of school facilities in areas affected by Federal activities, as provided in Public Law 949, 84th Congress (see above). Of this amount, not to exceed \$15,000,000 is for assistance under title IV of Public Law 815, 81st Congress, as amended; (2) *Public Health Service*, \$50,000,000 for grants to States, municipalities, and interstate agencies for waste treatment works construction, and \$3,000,000 for assistance in establishing and maintaining water-pollution control programs, as authorized in Public Law 660, 84th Congress (see Construction Review, August 1956, p. 46); and \$30,000,000 for grants-in-aid to non-Federal public and nonprofit institutions for the construction of health research facilities, as authorized in Public Law 835, 84th Congress (see above).

Atomic Energy Commission, \$158,300,000 for construction, acquisition, or expansion of plants and facilities.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, \$12,700,000 for loan to the Solano Irrigation District, California, for construction of distribution facilities.



NOTE: Other major laws affecting construction that were enacted during the closing weeks of the 84th Congress, but not summarized in Construction Review, are as follows: (1) Public Laws 694, 716, and 720, extending the authorization for issuance of revenue bonds in the Territory of Hawaii for highways, schools, and other public improvements; (2) P.L. 826, authorizing the Federal Government to share in the cost of shore-protection measures undertaken by certain private property owners; (3) P.L. 858, authorizing an appropriation of \$43,700,000 for construction, by the Secretary of the Interior, of the Washoe reclamation project in Nevada and California; (4) P.L. 878, amending the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act to improve and simplify the credit facilities available for farm improvement loans; (5) P.L. 952, reauthorizing the construction of the Farwell unit of the Missouri River Basin project at an estimated cost of \$30,534,000; (6) P.L. 981, increasing the appropriation authorization of the Atomic Energy Commission for plant construction and acquisition to \$319,595,000; (7) P.L. 984, the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, encouraging State and local participation in the development of projects under the Federal reclamation laws, and providing for Federal cooperation in nonfederal projects in the 17 western reclamation States; and (8) P.L. 1018, broadening the scope of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to permit inclusion in watershed projects of improvements for non-agricultural purposes, such as those for municipal water supply and stream flow regulation.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Construction Review brings together under one cover virtually all of the Government's current statistics that pertain to construction. Published jointly by the U. S. Department of Commerce and the U. S. Department of Labor, this monthly report is designed to serve the wide variety of groups and individuals among businessmen, government officials, legislators, labor unions, research workers, and the general public who need a convenient reference to the many facets by which current trends in construction may be gaged.

The various measures of construction are shown in detail wherever possible, by type of construction, trade, or material, and in addition, by location. The Index to statistical tables is a guide to the detail provided by each tabulation.

Most of the statistical series shown are prepared separately or jointly by the two agencies responsible for this publication. The remainder, specifically accredited, originate in other governmental agencies or are contributed by private organizations.¹

Almost all the statistics are presented on a monthly basis; the rest, quarterly. Except where noted, all data relate to the continental United States.

DEFINITION OF THE SERIES

Part I--Construction Put in Place. Construction, for the purpose of this series, is defined to include the engineering, design, and production of all fixed works and structures. Only new construction, including major additions and alterations, is covered; maintenance and repair work is excluded. The estimates cover build-

ings; other structures such as dams, levees, and bridges; and nonstructural works such as airfields, highways, canals, and navigation channels. They include the installed value of equipment generally considered an integral part of a structure and commonly included in the contract price, such as plumbing, heating, and air conditioning equipment and elevators. They exclude separable equipment, such as production machinery, power-generating equipment, and furnishings.

Clearing and development of land is included. If, however, an existing structure is demolished in the process, the demolition itself is excluded. Excluded also are oil, gas, and water well drilling; the digging and shoring of mines; and work which is an integral part of farming operations such as plowing, terracing, and the digging of drainage ditches.

Value of construction includes the cost of architectural and engineering fees, land development costs, material and equipment installed, labor, overhead, and profit on construction operations, but not speculative profits. Also included are the value of force-account work (construction done, not through a contractor, but directly by a business or government agency using a separate work force to perform nonmaintenance construction on the agency's own properties), as well as the value of work done by owners or their families on their own homes, farm buildings, and the like.

Estimates of the value of construction measure the value of work put in place on all structures and facilities under construction during a given period regardless of when work on each individual project was started.

¹The private contributors are as follows: American Appraisal Co. (525 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.), Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. (329 E St., N. W., Washington 4, D. C.), E. H. Roeckh and Associates (1406 M St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.), and the Engineering News-Record (330 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y.), which provide this bulletin with construction cost indexes; the F. W. Dodge Corporation (119 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y.), which provides contract award values for the 37 eastern States; and the following private associations whose materials production, shipments, and other statistics on materials are published here: American Institute of Steel Construction (101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y.), American Iron and Steel Institute (350 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.), Douglas Fir Plywood Association (Tacoma Bldg., Tacoma 2, Wash.), National Electric Manufacturers Association (155 E. 44th St., New York 17, N. Y.), National Lumber Manufacturers Association (1319 18th St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.), and National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 4, Ill.).

Federally owned construction covers all projects financed exclusively with Federal funds, whether the work is done by force-account or by private contractors. State and locally owned construction, which also covers both force-account and private-contract work, includes projects financed entirely by State and local governments, as well as projects financed in part by the Federal Government under grants-in-aid programs. Thus, the value figures for State and locally owned construction include the funds obtained from all three levels of government--Federal, State, and local. For the most part, the types of projects involving both Federal and State or local government monies are highways, airfields, schools, hospitals, and sewage-disposal and water-supply facilities.

Part II--New Housing. The housing series in this report cover only permanent and housekeeping dwelling units, which are defined as dwelling places containing permanent cooking facilities, or the minimum built-in facilities essential to housekeeping.

The series on the number of new permanent nonfarm dwelling units started, widely known as housing starts, includes prefabricated housing (if permanent), but excludes conversions (which are not new dwelling units) and hotel, dormitory accommodations, and military barracks (none of which are housekeeping dwellings). Excluded also are all temporary dwelling units, such as trailers, sheds, and shacks, as well as all farm housing.

The housing starts estimates are based on local building permits issued (adjusted for canceled permits and for lag between permit issuance and start of construction) and public contracts awarded, plus a field count of units started in a sample of nonpermit-issuing places.

Construction is said to have started when excavation work for the basement or the foundation of the structure has commenced.

This series was revised beginning with data for January 1954. The new series presents statistics for the 4 broad Census regions (Northeast, North Central, South, and West) and for the metropolitan, as compared with the nonmet-

ropolitan segment of the country. Estimates by metropolitan-nonmetropolitan location have been carried back on a monthly basis through January 1953, and on an annual basis through 1950.

These geographic data replace the urban-rural classification used previously. Also, rental-type units in the new series are classified as 2-4 family and 5-or-more family structures, compared with the former classification of 2-family and 3-or-more family structures.

Construction cost data shown here represent the average of builders' estimates of the construction cost of all new private 1-family houses started nationally. The construction cost averages are affected by variations in size and design of the houses, in the size and type of projects started, and differences in construction methods, as well as changes in cost of materials and labor. They do not represent the construction cost of a typical house, and should not be confused with selling price or permit valuation.

The cost data are based primarily on builders' estimates of construction cost as shown on the building permit, and on reports of construction cost by individual construction contractors in a representative group of localities not issuing permits. Building-permit information is adjusted for the general understatement of costs shown on permit applications.

The construction cost figures cover the cost of labor, materials, and subcontracted work, and that part of the builders' overhead and profit chargeable directly to the building of the houses. Included are the costs of equipment which becomes an integral part of the structure and is essential to its general use. Excluded are the costs of land, site improvement, architectural and engineering fees, and sales profits.

While the series on total nonfarm dwelling units started, as well as the series on units started under FHA and VA programs, cover new housing only, as distinguished from converted or existing housing, the statistics on nonfarm mortgage recordings of \$20,000 or less refer to both new and existing structures. Furthermore, the latter series covers all types of building construction, but resi-

dential building accounts for the larger proportion of these mortgage recordings.

Part III--Building Permits. The statistics on building construction authorized by local building permits, beginning with data for January 1954, measure building activity in all localities having building-permit systems--rural nonfarm as well as urban. Such localities (over 7,000) include about 80 percent of the total nonfarm population of the country, according to the 1950 Census.

The building-construction data cover federally as well as nonfederally owned projects. Figures on the amount of construction contracts awarded for Federal projects and for public housing (Federal, State, and local) in permit-issuing places are added to the valuation data (estimated cost entered by builders on building-permit applications) for privately owned projects; construction undertaken by State and local governments is reported by local officials.

No adjustment has been made in the building-permit data to reflect the fact that permit valuations generally understate the actual cost of construction, nor for lapsed permits or the lag between permit issuance or contract-award dates and start of construction. Therefore, they should not be considered as representing the volume of building construction started.

Statistics shown in this report for the total metropolitan area of the country represent the 168 Standard Metropolitan Areas used in the 1950 Census. Data for individual metropolitan areas (which were selected from those for which building-permit coverage is complete or virtually complete) include an estimate for non-permit-issuing places in each area.

Permit valuation figures do not include the costs of (1) demolishing or moving buildings, (2) nonbuilding construction (e.g., streets and highways, pipelines, water and sewer systems, etc.), or (3) land, land development, and architectural and engineering fees.

The builders' estimates of cost as reported on the building permit, basically include the value of labor and materials involved. However, because of differences in requirements, administration,

and enforcement among the many local permit systems covered in this series, and variations in how individuals report, precise information is lacking regarding the extent to which the cost of service facilities essential to the general use of the building, or builders' overhead and profit, are included.

Dwelling units are defined the same for the building-permit series as for the series presented in Part II (New Housing) of this report. The nonhousekeeping residential building shown here is comprised of such structures as hotels, dormitories, tourist cabins, and clubs and association buildings with bedrooms.

Part IV--Contract Awards. The value of contracts awarded represents the amount of the construction contracts let during a given period of time for new construction, including major additions and alterations. Maintenance and repair work is not covered. As in the "construction put in place" series, equipment which becomes an integral part of structures and is essential to their general use is included, as well as costs of land development, materials, labor, and contractors' overhead and profit on construction operations. Similarly, the value of Federal force-account work is also included, but the cost of land and separable equipment are excluded. However, unlike the construction put in place series, the statistics on contracts awarded exclude architectural and engineering fees and non-Federal force-account work, but include a small amount of demolition work when it is part of the overall contract for new construction.

Figures on federally owned projects are compiled from notifications of construction contracts awarded, obtained from other Federal agencies. Data on non-Federal construction are obtained from records compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, for the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains. For the remaining States, they are based on reports from local building-permit officials, augmented by reports on construction contract awards which appear in a number of construction trade periodicals. Inquiries about the Dodge contract-award series may be addressed directly to that company.

Part V--Costs. The Department of Commerce composite construction cost index is a combination of various cost indexes (prepared by private organizations and other government agencies), weighted monthly by the current relative importance of the major classes of construction shown in the series on construction put in place. It is, therefore, the equivalent of a variable weighted indicator, reflecting monthly changes not only in the component indexes, but also in the relative importance of the major classes of construction which are used as weights.

The individual private indexes reported monthly by the American Appraisal Company, Associated General Contractors, E. H. Boeckh and Associates, and the Engineering News-Record are computed from quotations for a designated bill of materials and a specified amount of labor. The indexes differ as to the amounts and kinds of materials and labor measured, geographic coverage, and the extent to which adjustments are made for variations in labor efficiency, overhead and other factors affecting construction costs.

Cost indexes applicable to particular locations and special types of construction may be obtained from most of these compilers.

All materials usually incorporated into buildings by the general contractor, or his subcontractors, are covered in the index of wholesale prices of building materials. Specifically excluded are consumer durable goods such as kitchen ranges, refrigerators, and air-conditioning equipment. Goods of constant quality are priced from period to period, so that the index measures the effect only of price, rather than of quality change. "Wholesale" refers to sales in large lots, at primary market levels.

The series was revised, beginning with the January 1952 index, to include the pricing of additional materials, a different weighting pattern, and a change in the pricing period. The revised index, based on 1947-49=100, is the "official" wholesale price index of the Federal Government for January 1952 and all subsequent months; the indexes previously published on the base 1926=100 are the official price indexes for Decem-

ber 1951 and all earlier dates. The index presented here for the year 1951 on a 1947-49=100 base is taken from a "linked" series, calculated solely for analytical purposes, and does not supersede the former index (1926=100) as the official series for that year.

Union wage scales are the minimum wage rates agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers and trade unions. Overtime beyond the negotiated maximum daily and weekly hours is excluded. In addition, the scales do not reflect either rates for apprentices or premium rates paid for special qualifications or other reasons.

Part VI--Materials. The Indexes of Construction Materials Output provide measures of production or shipments for ten groups of construction materials, and are based on the output of 43 selected materials. Monthly indexes are provided for eight groups of materials, quarterly indexes for the other two groups, and annual levels are given for all groups.

In computing the indexes, the current monthly or quarterly unit production or shipments data are converted to aggregate values by multiplying 1947-49 average prices at the mills, factories, or plants. The base period aggregate values (1947-49 monthly average = 100) are derived by multiplying 1947-49 monthly average output by the 1947 average factory, mill, or plant price. By the use of varying physical quantities, and constant prices, the group indexes represent physical quantity measures. The trend lines appearing on the charts are derived from the group indexes by removing the month-to-month fluctuations resulting from seasonal and erratic factors. The lines are 12-month moving averages centered on the seventh month, with each calendar year centered on July. Projections for the last 6 months are made by using the current data adjusted for the seasonal movements appearing during the period 1952-54, and smoothed by a 3-month moving average.

Part VII--Employment. Data on employment in contract construction cover all employees of construction firms who worked during, or received pay for, the payroll period ending nearest the 15th of the month, regardless of the type of

work performed. Only firms engaged in the construction business on a contract basis for others are included, but such firms pursue all kinds of construction activities--new work, alterations, demolitions, maintenance, and repairs. Excluded are self-employed construction workers, working proprietors, and force-account employees of non-construction firms and public agencies engaged in construction activities.

The hours and earnings estimates relate only to nonsupervisory construction workers and working foremen. All such workers, regardless of skill, are included if they are engaged in any way in contract construction activities (on either privately or publicly owned projects).

The earnings statistics shown are gross earnings before deductions for old-age and unemployment insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues. Gross earnings include the workers' base pay, premium pay for overtime and for bonuses, and pay for sick leave, holidays, and vacations taken, but such items as employer contributions to welfare funds, and to insurance or pension plans, are excluded.

The indexes of weekly man-hours in contract construction are a composite measure of the trends in construction-worker employment and average weekly hours. They provide a more meaningful measure of contract-construction activity than the employment or average weekly hours series alone, since the volume of work done is dependent upon both the number of workers employed and the length of their workweek.

The foregoing employment and earnings series are based upon reports from individual contracting establishments; these reports do not contain the detail necessary to separate employment according to the kind of construction work performed, as reported in the tables on labor requirements for new construction. To yield this information, the figures on the value of new construction (see the tables on new construction put in place) are converted into estimated man-months of work, using a factor representing the value of work put in place per man-hour. This factor relates to different time periods and is based on diverse sources,

according to the type of work. For most types of work, no adjustment is made for productivity. Therefore, although the series provides a suitable general measure of labor requirements, it cannot be used to gage changes in productivity.

The labor requirement figures derived by this method are not employment figures in the same sense as those developed from employment reports. They are, instead, an approximate measurement, in terms of number of full-time workers, of the labor required to put in place the dollar volume of new construction reported for the specified period.

Since the basic data (dollar volume) cover the entire value of the work put in place, all the labor charged to the construction is included--wage and salaried employees, in addition to the working proprietors, self-employed, and employees of operative builders. Furthermore, force-account work, which is excluded from data on employment by construction contractors, is included in the labor requirement series. Also, contractors' employees may work on all kinds of construction work--demolitions, or repair and maintenance projects, as well as new construction--but the figures on labor requirements have been developed for new projects only.

Information shown in this report on apprentices in the building trades applies only to registered apprentices. A registered apprentice is defined as an employee who, under an expressed or implied agreement for a stipulated term, receives instruction in a registered apprenticeship system, and concerning whom a recognized apprenticeship agency has on record all the information it requires.

The apprenticeship data are obtained from local apprenticeship committees, trade unions, employers' associations, and building trades councils, by field representatives of the Federal Government and cooperating State Apprenticeship Agencies. Occupational classifications are based on descriptions in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (Washington, U. S. Employment Service, 2d Ed., 1949). For the purposes of the tabulation presented here, three classifica-

tions--brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers--have been combined into one group, the trowel trades.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Descriptions of the techniques of compiling most of the series included, as well as related explanatory information and historical statistics are contained in

the following selected group of Government publications. Starred (*) items may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at the prices shown. The remainder listed below are available upon request to the agency responsible for the publications unless otherwise indicated.

*Business Statistics: A Supplement to the Survey of Current Business. 1955 Biennial Edition. U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics. \$2.

Construction Volume and Costs, 1915-54. May be obtained from Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Offices or Department of Commerce Field Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses), or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price, 50 cents.

Construction Cost Indexes. BLS Report No. 73, November 1954. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Construction During Five Decades, Historical Statistics, 1915-52. BLS Bulletin No. 1146. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 45 cents.

*Employment and Earnings. Monthly. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Subscription price: \$3.50 domestic; \$4.50 foreign. Single copies vary in price.

*Employment and Earnings. Annual Supplement Issue. May 1955. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Eighth Annual Report-Housing and Home Finance Agency. Calendar Year 1954. Housing and Home Finance Agency. \$1.50.

Housing Statistics. Special Year-end Issue with Annual Statistics. January 1955. Housing and Home Finance Agency, Division of Housing Research, Washington 25, D. C.

New Construction Expenditures, 1915-51; Labor Requirements 1939-51. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series. BLS Bulletin 1168, U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 60 cents.

Chapter II--Estimating National Housing Volume

Chapter III--Estimating Expenditures for New Construction

Chapter IV--Labor Required for New Construction

Chapter VI--Measurement of Industrial Employment

Chapter VII--Hours and Earnings in Nonagricultural Industries

Chapter X--Wholesale Price Index

Chapter XII--Studies of Occupational Wages and Supplementary Benefits

*Union Wages and Hours: Building Trades, July 1, 1955. BLS Bulletin 1192. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

"Revised Wholesale Price Index of Building Materials," Construction, March 1952, pp. 3-8. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

"A Description of the Revised Wholesale Price Index." Serial No. R.2067. Monthly Labor Review, Feb. 1952. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Wholesale Prices, 1951 and 1952. BLS Bulletin 1143. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

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